United Nations S/PV.7473

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7473rd meeting
Friday, 26 June 2015, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Ibrahim	(Malaysia)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Chad	Mr. Gombo
	Chile	Mr. Olguín Cigarroa
	China	Mr. Xu Zhongsheng
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mrs. Hampe
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mr. Adamu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. González de Linares Palou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

The situation in Burundi

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-19684 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Burundi

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Burundi to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

After consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf. I quote:

"The Security Council reiterates its deep concern regarding the grave security and political situation in Burundi against the backdrop of the forthcoming, communal, presidential and senatorial elections and for the impact of the crisis in the region. The Security Council strongly condemns all acts of violence and human rights violations and abuses and recalls that those responsible for such violence should be held accountable and brought to justice.

"The Security Council welcomes the regional and subregional efforts aimed at addressing the crisis, and in this regard takes note of the East African Community (EAC) summits, held on 13 May and on 31 May 2015 in Dar es-Salaam, of the communiqué issued by the African Union Peace and Security Council after its Summit, held on 13 June 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa, and of the letters sent by the Government of Burundi to the Security Council.

"The Security Council pays tribute to the relentless efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, and recalls that Burundian stakeholders had made some progress in a difficult dialogue, thanks to Special Envoy Djinnit's able facilitation.

"The Security Council takes note of the African Union's (AU) statement that the political dialogue has not produced expected results and that the current situation could jeopardize the important gains recorded following the signing of the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi and the Global Ceasefire agreement of 2003, and affect the stability of the region.

"The Security Council welcomes the resumption of the dialogue between all the Burundian parties, under the facilitation of the AU, the United Nations, the EAC and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. In this regard, the Security Council welcomes the appointment of Professor Ibrahima Fall by the AU, as the new Special Representative of the chairperson of the Commission for the Great Lakes region and Head of the AU Liaison office in Bujumbura. The Security Council also welcomes the arrival in Bujumbura of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, Abdoulaye Bathily, which allows for the international mediation to immediately assist all Burundian parties to expedite the search for a consensual political solution to the crisis.

"While acknowledging that further steps must continue to be taken by parties to adhere to the decisions taken by the EAC and the AU Peace and Security Council, the Council calls on the Burundian parties to urgently participate in an inclusive dialogue which should focus, in the spirit of the Arusha Agreements and the Constitution, on the measures to be taken to create conditions conducive to the organization of free, fair, transparent and credible elections.

"The Council takes note of the statement in the AU Peace and Security Council communiqué of 13 June that the date of the election should be set by consensus between the Burundian parties, in the spirit of the EAC's communiqué of 31 May 2015 requesting a postponement of the elections, and on the basis of a technical assessment to be undertaken by the United Nations.

"The Security Council emphasizes that the dialogue should address all matters on which the parties disagree. The Security Council further emphasizes that this dialogue should address concerns related to the reinstatement of private media; the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular freedoms of expression and of peaceful assembly, including for members of the political opposition to campaign freely, as guaranteed by the Constitution of

Burundi; the release of those arbitrarily detained following demonstrations; the respect for the rule of the law; and the urgent disarmament of all armed youth groups allied with political parties, as reflected in the conditions of the EAC communiqué of 31 May 2015, conditions to be met prior to the holding of elections.

"The Security Council welcomes the commitment of the AU and the Chairperson of the AU Commission to fully assume the responsibilities stemming from its role as Guarantor of the Arusha Agreement, as well as that of the region not to stand by in case the situation deteriorates.

"In this regard, the Security Council welcomes the decision of the AU to immediately deploy human rights observers and other civilian personnel; to deploy AU military experts to verify the process of disarming of all armed youth groups allied with political parties, which will submit regular reports on the implementation of the disarmament process, and to deploy an AU election observer mission if conditions for the organization of free, fair, transparent and credible elections are met. The Council urges the Government of Burundi and other relevant actors to extend their full cooperation to these processes.

"The Security Council also welcomes the AU Peace and Security Council's decision to send, by the first week of July, a ministerial delegation including the Commission, to assess the implementation of the conditions required by EAC, the AU and the Council for the holding of the elections.

"The Council calls on the Electoral Mission of the United Nations in Burundi to fully and actively pursue the implementation of its mandate in accordance with resolution 2137 (2014), including to swiftly report to the Security Council before, during and after the elections

"The Security Council reiterates its concern about the difficult situation of the Burundian refugees who fled their country into the neighbouring States, commends the host countries (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania), as well as humanitarian agencies, for their support to the affected populations, and calls upon the international community to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance. The Council urges the Government of Burundi to create the conditions conducive to their early return.

"The Security Council calls on all actors in the region to preserve the safety and security of populations in the region."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2015/13.

I now give the floor to the representative of Burundi.

Mr. Shingiro (Burundi) (*spoke in French*): Naturally, before I begin my statement, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this emergency meeting on the situation in Burundi, during which the Council adopted a presidential statement on the situation (S/PRST/2015/13). Allow me to also welcome the presence of Mr. Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, with whom I meet often to discuss the situation in my country.

The Government of the Republic of Burundi fully appreciates the efforts undertaken by the international community to support the Burundian people on their path towards free, inclusive and peaceful elections. It is within that framework that the Government of Burundi welcomed the appointment of a new facilitator, namely, Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily, after his predecessor, Said Djinnit, was forced to step down by opposition parties hostile to the holding of elections.

With respect to the electoral timetable, the Government has accepted a postponement of the elections three times, following recommendations by various partners, including the Summit of Heads of State of East Africa, which was held in Dar es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, on 31 May 2015. That was done to provide the necessary time to the political parties that had refused to participate in the elections and, as a result, were not prepared for them.

Nevertheless, given the fact that, in any of the countries represented here today, elections are the basis for independent democracy, even if the Government agreed to the principle of dialogue with all political partners, such a dialogue could not take place outside the parameters of the Constitution. If it did, the authority responsible for holding the elections, in other words, the head of State, would be accused of high treason under article 117 of the Constitution, on which, of course, he swore an oath before taking up his functions as President of the Republic.

Furthermore, the people of Burundi, our political partners and the political coalitions present on the ground, which have been in full campaign mode for more than two months now, are tired of the successive postponements of the elections and are increasingly impatient and eager to start the elections. They cannot accept that their leaders' civic rights are being violated according to the whims of certain political parties and certain ill-intentioned private individuals who wish to further postpone this major electoral event in our country.

Therefore, as already stated, the following timetable is one that has been pushed back as far as constitutionally acceptable to avoid a constitutional vacuum and political disorder. First, the election of communal counsellors and deputies will be held on 29 June 2015, that is, on Monday. The electoral campaigns for those communal administrative elections ended today. Then the election of the President of the Republic will take place on 15 July 2015 and the election of senators on 24 July 2015. That whole calendar takes into consideration the constitutional limits and deadlines. Postponing the elections beyond those dates would leave the Government in a constitutional vacuum, which no one wants.

The Government of Burundi is surprised by the behaviour of those politicians who dare to say that they would like the elections to be postponed once again. We wonder what kind of postponement they want at this precise moment. They also say that they want an electoral calendar based on a consensus among all stakeholders. We would wish to inform you, Mr. President, that the Constitution of Burundi makes no provision for the consensual establishment by politicians of the electoral calendar. It is the prerogative of the Independent National Electoral Commission to establish that calendar, as stipulated in article 91 of the Constitution; any other approach would breach the Constitution. The Commission, which is responsible for organizing elections, has been able to comply with that provision. It consulted the stakeholders on 8 June, and the discussions at that meeting were taken into account when the current electoral calendar, which is quite simply the last one possible under the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi, was drafted.

In accordance with the current electoral process and taking account of the radical opposition's intransigence in wanting to postpone the elections at every turn, the Government of Burundi had to choose one of two options. The first was to postpone the elections and voluntarily accept being left in a constitutional vacuum, the repercussions of which no one has so far been able to predict. The second option was to proceed with the elections as planned, in accordance with the calendar resulting from the third postponement, which complied with the recommendations and conclusions of the ministers of the East African Community (EAC) and South Africa, who visited Burundi on 16 June to assess the implementation of the recommendations of the EAC Summit, held in Dar es-Salaam, Tanzania. The Summit recommendations were that the Government of Burundi should follow the current timetable, because the first two postponements were sufficient, and that it should respect the constitutional deadlines on account of the constitutional vacuum that could ensue after 7 July, at the end of the term of the communal councils, the only bodies authorized to elect members of Parliament. All of the foregoing is by way of explanation of the Government's approach, which is to proceed with the elections within the deadlines set in the Constitution.

With regard to the recommended political dialogue, I would remind delegations that the Government's successive postponements of the elections and the measure suspending the implementation of the warrants for the arrest of the organizers of the violent demonstrations are further proof of the Government's good faith, while the opposition has made no such gestures in return. The Government, then, is making every effort and many concessions, whereas opposition groups, behaving like spoilt, demanding children, have been unable to make concessions and their attitude has become more uncompromising over time. They have gone as far as to call into question Mr. Djinnit, not for objective reasons but simply to delay the dialogue.

That dialogue, which is also part of the peace process, will of course be held, even after the elections, which are essential to lasting peace. The Government is waiting only for the arrival in Burundi of the team appointed at the Summit of Heads of State of the East African Community to steer the dialogue so that it can monitor the situation closely from Bujumbura.

As for the security climate of the elections, the programme for the disarmament of the civilian population is functioning as it should, and the Government would like to point out that two instructions were issued to the National Disarmament Commission just after the Dar es-Salaam Summit: first, to increase the rate of recovery of all weapons held by

groups affiliated with the political parties. In addition to the 100,000 weapons already recovered by the forces of law and order, the Government has recently been able to accelerate such recovery to stabilize the security situation in the country for the establishment of a favourable climate for the elections. Secondly, to achieve even better results, the Government has invited all social partners to contribute to that recovery so that no one feels excluded from security matters, particularly in this very sensitive electoral period. The Government would like to assure the population and the international observers that every effort has been made to ensure security at every stage of the elections.

The part of the current electoral campaign that concerns the administrative communes has finished, but the campaign as a whole is ongoing, and all political parties, or at least the majority, are participating, except for the radical opposition. I can also inform you that more political parties are participating in this campaign than in 2010.

The Government is making particular efforts to enable refugees to return. It has already dispatched delegations, including at the ministerial level, to neighbouring countries to encourage refugees, who are fleeing not war but rumours, so that they can return. Between 35,000 and 40,000 refugees have already returned to Burundi, a considerable number.

Before I end my statement, I would like to return quickly to certain aspects of the regional dimension, something to which I repeatedly refer. A team of EAC ministers, dispatched by the heads of State of the region and South Africa, visited Burundi on 16 June to evaluate the implementation of the recommendations of the 31 May Summit. The ministers concluded that the current electoral calendar should be respected and that any further postponement would not be productive. When proposals are received from outside Africa for the postponement of the elections, which are due to be held in 48 hours, we can only wonder why there are such divergences in regional positions. Since the ministers who recommended adherence to the current calendar were dispatched by the heads of State, to contradict such special delegates would call into question those heads of State. It is important that the decisions of regional stakeholders be respected. No one can claim to love the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi more than the Tanzanians. The Agreement was negotiated and signed in Arusha, Tanzania, and the Tanzanians are its guarantors. They know us; we were once refugees in Tanzania, so no one can claim to uphold the Agreement better than the Tanzanians, South Africans or others in the region. If the Tanzanians, therefore, propose a calendar on behalf of EAC, it should be accepted by everyone, because the Tanzanians know the region better than anyone.

I must also mention one important point very quickly. You know what is happening in our country; sometimes we read about it on the Internet, sometimes we read reports, but a certain amount regarding the situation has been left unsaid. We are aware of what I might describe as macabre plans, drawn up by some of our partners — a minority, since the majority of our partners act in good faith — with a view to applying in Burundi the same plan as in Burkina Faso. That plan consists in provoking violent demonstrations, which are to be followed by chaos and, subsequently, a coup d'état to resolve the chaos, followed in turn by a transitional Government, precisely in line with the model used in Burkina Faso. Burundi, however, resisted the 13 May coup d'état, and the plan, designed to establish a transitional Government and impose on Burundi the leaders favoured by those partners, failed. We have documentary proof to that effect. Their current plan is also designed to apply the approach followed in Côte d'Ivoire. It would consist in endlessly postponing the elections in Burundi in order to bring about a constitutional vacuum. That vacuum would culminate in a very weak transitional Government, which could lead to rebellions breaking out left and right, which would ultimately lead to the kind of situation that occurred in Côte d'Ivoire, and we all know how that worked out.

In such a situation, the Government of Burundi is responsible for the security and peace of its people. It cannot resign itself to collapsing into an institutional vacuum and the abyss that would clearly result. That is why we will press on with our elections on Monday in order to enable the overwhelming majority of the population — more than 95 per cent wish to see the elections held — not to be held hostage by a radical minority that does not want elections and that wants a transitional Government, so it can take office without going to the polls. That is the situation. Those are the two plans that exist, as can clearly be seen. I wanted to share that with the Council rather than keep it to myself.

In conclusion, I would like to inform the Council that, unfortunately, some of our troops deployed with the African Union Mission in Somalia have been attacked

and have died on the field of battle. Our soldiers have done excellent work in Somalia in order to help our brothers there restore peace, and we are always ready to sacrifice our troops in order to achieve our shared goal of restoring peace in brother countries such as Somalia. Such attacks, rather than discouraging our troops, have worked to redouble their energy and determination to help eliminate Al-Shabaab.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7474

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7474th meeting
Monday, 29 June 2015, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Ibrahim	(Malaysia)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Moura Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Olguín Cigarroa
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mr. Baublys
	New Zealand	Mrs. Schwalger
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. González de Linares Palou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

The situation in Mali

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2015/426)

Letter dated 16 June 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/444)

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15-20048 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Mali

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2015/426)

Letter dated 16 June 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/444)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Mali to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2015/481, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Angola, Chad, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Nigeria, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/426, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali. I also wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/444, which contains a letter dated 16 June 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2227 (2015).

I now give the floor to the representative of Mali.

Mr. Kassé (Mali) (*spoke in French*): Allow me at the outset to reiterate the warm congratulations addressed to you, Mr. President, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International Cooperation, His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye Diop, when he spoke (see S/PV.7468) in support of the report (S/2015/426) of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali. Allow me also to reaffirm the gratitude of the people and the Government of Mali, as instructed by the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, to all those who, directly or indirectly, contributed to the success of the inter-Malian peace process, which officially began in Algiers on 16 July 2014.

Today I have the honour of addressing the Security Council on the occasion of the unanimous adoption of resolution 2227 (2015), which, it is worth noting, is primarily focused on the effective and comprehensive implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers process. The delegation of Mali welcomes the adoption of this resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the seventieth anniversary of whose signing in San Francisco we have just commemorated. My delegation also welcomes the adoption of this resolution, which is of great political and historical significance and which takes into account the core concerns of the Malian Government, which were expressed from this same rostrum by Minister Diop on 23 June.

We are therefore gratified to note that the Security Council, in its great wisdom, has listened to what we had to say and has responded by shaping the new mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) around the effective and comprehensive implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, with a particular focus on the following priorities: support for the political process and national reconciliation; the strengthening of national ownership of the peace process; support for the re-establishment of the State's authority and the return of the armed and security forces to the northern regions of Mali; support for the Government's efforts in the areas of security, stabilization and the protection of civilians; the enactment of targeted sanctions against those who seek to obstruct or prevent the effective and comprehensive implementation of the Peace Agreement; support for security-sector reform, the promotion and protection

of human rights and humanitarian assistance; and the strengthening of collaboration and cooperation between the Malian armed forces and MINUSMA, at both the strategic and the operational levels.

Similarly, the Government of the Republic of Mali is also grateful to the Security Council for having taken into consideration of the following concerns: the security aspect of the Agreement, including the cantonment and disarmament of armed groups; the operationalization of the battalions that are intended to serve as the rapid-reaction force within MINUSMA; the operationalization on the ground of the resources made available to increase the effectiveness of MINUSMA; the use of all available means to prevent and counteract the threats posed by and the return of terrorist groups, narco-jihadists and other forces hostile to the implementation of the Agreement; the requirement for the armed groups that are signatories of the Agreement to distance themselves from the activities of terrorist and narco-jihadist groups; the requirement that troop-contributing countries ensure that their contingents have the appropriate equipment; the strengthening of cooperation between MINUSMA and the Barkhane force in the fight against terrorism; and the operationalization of the monitoring committee of the Agreement.

Against that backdrop, it is clear that resolution 2227 (2015) endorses the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, which is the result of eight months of intensive inter-Malian negotiations in the context of the Algiers process.

It would be regrettable, therefore, if all of the joint efforts made were to be jeopardized by the enemies of peace, who have been ramping up their terrorist activities all over our country since the signing of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, in Bamako. This is evidenced by the terrorist attacks perpetrated on 27 and 28 June, which targeted, respectively, the Nara military camp, just 30 kilometres from the Mauritanian border, and the city of Fakoula, in the south of the country.

Faced with those attacks, the Government of the Republic of Mali reiterates its call to all parties that are signatories to the Agreement and to the international community to dovetail their efforts and pool their intelligence so as to rid their national territory of a common enemy, namely, terrorist and narco-jihadist groups, which seek only to fulfil their criminal goals by means of fear and terror.

I should like here to express our solidarity and compassion with Chad, France, Tunisia, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Belgium, and with all victims of terrorism.

It would be remiss of me to conclude without reiterating the determination of the Government of Mali to honour the commitments it shouldered under the Bamako Agreement and to work in an inclusive manner with all Malian stakeholders to ensure that the process is Malian-owned, including by civil society. In that respect, over the next few days the Government will establish a national mechanism for the implementation of the Agreement.

Finally, I would like to urgently appeal to the international community to continue its support and to honour its commitments with a view to ensuring the effective, speedy and comprehensive implementation of the Bamako Agreement.

The meeting rose at 10.10 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7475

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7475th meeting
Monday, 29 June 2015, 10.10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Ibrahim	(Malaysia)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Olguín Cigarroa
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mr. Baublys
	New Zealand	Mrs. Schwalger
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. González de Linares Palou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2015/378)

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15-20057 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2015/378)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2015/482, the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. I also wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/378, the report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2228 (2015).

I now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian delegation voted in favour of the adoption of resolution 2228 (2015) on the extension of the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), based on the important stabilizing role of that hybrid mission in Darfur. For us, it is also of principal importance that the resolution reaffirms the role of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur of 2011 as a sound basis for a settlement in Darfur. That is no coincidence. After all, the Doha Document is not only being successfully implemented in practice, but it has also become an integral component of the Constitution of the Sudan. It is with satisfaction that we know that the Security Council again clearly spoke in favour of the mediation role of the head of UNAMID between the Government of the Sudan and the Darfur rebels on the basis of that document.

At the same time, the Security Council has spoken out against attempts to devalue the Doha peace process and to replace it with a type of comprehensive settlement formula for the conflict in the Sudan based on a position, which is supported abroad, that assumes a regime change in Khartoum. The parties with an influence on the Darfur insurgents should urge them to become rapidly involved in the Doha peace process, just as, for example, groups in Mali were urged to join the peace and reconciliation agreement. The time is now right to think about the Doha Document's implementation by the irreconcilable insurgents, otherwise Council sanctions should be targeted at them. We note with satisfaction that the Council has stressed the key role of the Joint Working Group and the representatives of the Sudan, the United Nations and the African Union in elaborating a strategy for winding down the mission in Darfur. That would be in keeping with the basic principles of peacekeeping, which includes the agreement and consent of the host country, as well as the deployment and operation of peacekeeping operations.

The Security Council and the United Nations Secretariat must very carefully consider the Working Group's recommendations for the future. Those recommendations will, inter alia, determine the relationship between the Government of the Sudan and UNAMID.

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (*spoke in French*): Chad welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2228 (2015). The adoption has taken place at a particularly crucial moment in Darfur, where, despite the huge progress that has been achieved in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, the region continues to confront a huge number of security and humanitarian challenges, to the detriment of innocent civilians.

My delegation hopes that the resolution just adopted will serve as a starting point for the fostering of exemplary cooperation and mutual trust between the Government of the Sudan and African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). Such trust and cooperation are indispensable if we are to help the Sudanese parties achieve future peace and stability in the region. My delegation also welcomes the fact that the Security Council, together with the African Union, has reiterated its support for the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur as being the only feasible framework for the promotion of peace and reconciliation in Darfur. In that regard, we call upon the Council to do everything possible to encourage the armed movements that are non-signatories to sign the Document without preconditions.

We reiterate our full support to the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, led by President Mbeki, for its work aimed at promoting a resumption of talks and bringing about an end to hostilities between the Government of the Sudan and armed groups.

We also take note of the national dialogue initiative, which was again highlighted by President Omer Al-Bashir at his inauguration in April 2015 and which includes a promise of amnesty for the rebel groups that decide to participate in it. Chad invites all Sudanese stakeholders to take advantage of that opportunity to make progress on peace. There is no military solution to the Darfur crisis.

Finally, Chad welcomes the fact that the resolution just adopted underlines the major role played by the joint working group between the United Nations, the African Union and the Sudanese Government on the disengagement of UNAMID and hopes that the mission will present to the Council, when appropriate, relevant recommendations through the Secretary-General.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China voted in favour of resolution 2228 (2015), which was just adopted.

China has followed the issue of Darfur with great attention and appreciates the efforts made by the Sudanese Government to stabilize the situation in Darfur and promote the political process and economic and social development in Darfur. The international community should urge the parties concerned, especially the rebel forces in Darfur, to adhere to a path leading to a political solution, to participate in and implement the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and to achieve an early and comprehensive solution to the question, so as to lay a foundation for the development and reconstruction of the region.

China appreciates the work done by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in helping to stabilize the situation, promote peace talks and protect civilians. China has always maintained that a United Nations peacekeeping operation should fully respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country concerned, fully heed the views of the country concerned and, in keeping with changes in the local situation and actual needs, adjust its mandate and scale.

The Security Council should attach importance to the position of the Sudanese Government on the need for an exit strategy to be formulated for UNAMID. We welcome and support the setting up of a joint working group on this issue between the United Nations Secretariat, the Sudanese Government and the African Union. We hope that the parties concerned will step up their consultations so as to achieve a reasonable plan that is acceptable to all for the phased withdrawal of UNAMID.

Ms. Power (United States of America): Today, as a Council, we have recognized and recommitted to Darfur. We have done so as we face intensifying levels of conflict and a continuing and brutal campaign waged by the Government of the Sudan and its associated militia. We have done so against a backdrop of massive displacements and reports of horrific crimes such as mass rapes. Those living in Darfur continue to be subject to having their homes and communities burned to the ground and their livelihoods systematically disrupted.

We have seen more violent displacement of people in Darfur this past year than in the 10 previous years. Ten years ago, however, Darfur enjoyed a perch at the top of the international peace and security agenda. Today, the suffering of the people of Darfur has become less visible. Our attention has been diverted. The more than 2.5 million internally displaced people and the 4.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance today demand an urgent refocusing and recommitment to protecting the civilians threatened in Darfur and, as others have noted, to advancing peace.

Today, we have unanimously renewed the peacekeeping mission sent to protect the people of

Darfur from those who would do them harm. As we have reaffirmed in resolution 2228 (2015) adopted this morning, the Security Council has an enduring responsibility to evaluate our peacekeeping operations' performance. That includes considering when and how a mission should end. It is, of course, prudent for the Council to know what it means for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) — or any peacekeeping mission — to have completed its mission.

Sadly, given the very high level of violence and the very large numbers of displaced persons, UNAMID's presence is needed now more than ever, and resolution 2228 (2015) makes it clear that any refinement of the mission will be based on conditions on the ground and progress towards achieving the clearly identified benchmarks, now laid out in the annex to the mandate in the resolution.

We call upon the Government of the Sudan and all armed groups to cooperate fully with UNAMID as it seeks to carry out the difficult and critical work of protecting civilians in Darfur against the backdrop of a serious deterioration in the security situation on the ground.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2228 (2015) renewing the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The need for that mission is greater than ever. As Council members heard so powerfully in the Arria Formula meeting earlier this month, the region saw, this past year, the worst suffering for a decade. Darfur now has more than 2.5 million long-term displaced people. The Sudan has the greatest number of internally displaced persons in Africa. Millions go hungry, and humanitarian access is too often limited by parties to the conflict. We remain deeply concerned at the growing reports of abuses and violations of human rights, including those that emerged from Tabit last year.

Let us now set aside our differences and give our full support to UNAMID, so that it can continue its vital mission. UNAMID should now focus on improving its protection of civilians, conflict mediation and support for a peace process. We welcome that it will continue its important human rights role. Serious and unanswered allegations of abuses and violations of human rights have dogged the Sudan for over a decade. We encourage UNAMID to monitor, verify and draw the attention of the authorities to those reports as a matter of priority.

UNAMID cannot continue forever. Through the resolution just adopted, we have set out that UNAMID's long-term planning should be based on progress towards a set of agreed benchmarks. A political solution to the conflict, starting with a cessation of hostilities, is fundamental to achieving those targets. We call on all parties to the conflict to work together towards that goal.

As the African Union Peace and Security Council set out in its communiqué, we hope that the Government of the Sudan will play a more constructive role with UNAMID. We all share the objective of a peaceful, stable and prosperous Sudan. Ultimately, a well-functioning mission that is able to fulfil its mandate will be in a position to leave safely much sooner, in the best interests of all parties.

However, until the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations are working together to resolve the terrible situation in Darfur, we cannot consider an imminent exit for the mission. We simply cannot afford to lose focus. In renewing UNAMID's mandate for another year, we have taken the right step to prevent that from happening.

Mr. Méndez Graterol (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela voted in favour of resolution 2228 (2015), as we believe that the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), in coordination with the Government of the Sudan, plays an important role in the strategy aimed at achieving peace and stability in Darfur, including the protection of civilians, in accordance with the mandate of that mission.

We welcome the role of UNAMID in promoting peace and stability in Darfur within the framework of the search for sustainable and peaceful solutions to the conflict, with the full participation of the parties and the support of regional and subregional partners. In that vein, we express our full support for the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, which provides a framework that could serve as a basis for negotiations between the parties to the conflict.

Lastly, we hope that the joint working group will soon resume its discussions on a road map for the gradual transfer of the tasks of UNAMID to the Government in

Khartoum and the United Nations country team in the Sudan, for presentation to the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Hassan (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to begin by reiterating our warm congratulations, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council this month, during which consultations were held on the Secretary-General's report on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) (S/2015/378). Those consultations coincided with the discussions on the resolution on the extension of the mandate of UNAMID (resolution 2228 (2015). I would like to take this opportunity to thank those States that made every effort at the consultations to produce a balanced text that takes into account the positive developments in Darfur by sending a clear message to the remaining rebel groups to listen to reason and to engage resolutely and unconditionally in the political peace process on the basis of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, which includes the Government's guarantees that those groups' leaders will be able to participate inclusively and transparently in the national dialogue.

While we welcome the positive paragraphs contained in the resolution, we would affirm the importance of the regular review of peacekeeping operations, which requires the Secretary-General to present recommendations on the future of UNAMID and the mission's exit strategy, in response to paragraph 7 of resolution 2173 (2014), through which the mission's mandate was renewed last year, and in consultation with the Government of the Sudan and the African Union. Other paragraphs affirm the importance of the efforts of the Joint United Nations-African Union Special Representative for Darfur to ensure that those groups that have so far rejected peace sign the Doha Document, in order to give the process a global character. We also welcome the Council's condemnation of any actions by any armed group aimed at the forcible overthrow of the Government of the Sudan, and the paragraphs that affirm the Council's support for the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. We reiterate our gratitude to those fraternal States that played a leading role in ensuring that such paragraphs were included in the resolution.

At the same time, we have reservations regarding the fact that certain paragraphs of the resolution, alleging a deterioration in the humanitarian and security situation, were simply copied from the previous resolution (resolution 2223 (2015), giving the impression that all five provinces of Darfur are currently a theatre of open war with the armed groups. Such an impression is incorrect. While we admit, of course, that such tribal clashes as the latest incidents involving the Ma'aliya and Rezeigat groups in East Darfur have occurred in certain regions, resulting in the flight and displacement of citizens, they must be viewed in their true context, and we cannot therefore speak of a deterioration in the humanitarian situation owing to such clashes.

In the same way, we strenuously object to the seventh preambular paragraph of the resolution, expressing the Council's concern about the assertion in the Secretary-General's report that UNAMID has collected evidence of two cluster bombs near Kirigiyati, North Darfur. The Secretary-General emphasizes in his report that an inquiry into the incident is being conducted, and it is therefore unacceptable for the resolution to contain a preambular paragraph on the matter. The same goes for the paragraphs mentioning obstacles to the work of UNAMID. As I highlighted when I last addressed the Security Council on the subject (see S/PV.7460), the Secretary-General states in his report that 595 UNAMID-related visas were granted during the reporting period. We would remind delegations that UNAMID has 17,428 staff members, excluding its civilian component, and that the occasional delay in the granting of visas to a few dozen individuals, or in the granting of internal movement permits, should not lead us to ignore the positive developments or to speak of obstacles to the freedom of movement of UNAMID staff.

In accordance with paragraphs 26 and 27 of the resolution, relating to the UNAMID exit strategy, the joint working group on the matter must immediately resume its activities in line with the agreement we reached during the last round of talks, to the effect that West Darfur and four regions of Central Darfur are stable, and the first stage of the UNAMID exit strategy should therefore be implemented there. We would remind the Council that the UNAMID military and police presence in those areas is now irrelevant and should be replaced by United Nations agencies and programmes responsible for development and reconstruction. We reiterate the complete commitment of the Government of the Sudan to full cooperation and coordination with UNAMID, particularly because the

next stage is extremely important. We repeat our call for the Security Council to play its role in relation to those parties that refuse to join the Doha peace process and would remind the Council that it needs to send the right messages to end the violence.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7476

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7476th meeting
Monday, 29 June 2015, 10.40 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Ibrahim	(Malaysia)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Olguín Cigarroa
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mrs. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mr. Baublys
	New Zealand	Mrs. Schwalger
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Spain	Mr. González de Linares Palou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) (S/2015/468)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-20063 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) (S/2015/468)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Security Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/468, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014).

I now give the floor to Ms. Kyung-wha Kang.

Ms. Kyung-wha Kang: I have the honour to deliver the following statement, prepared by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Stephen O'Brien. He deeply regrets that he is unable to present it in person today, owing to previously scheduled travel plans that could not be changed, but he would like to assure the Council that he will do so next time.

Three years ago, the United Nations expressed its condemnation and deep concern about the 1,200 people who had been killed in Syria up to that point, and about the 10,000 refugees who had fled to neighbouring countries. There were already warnings that what was happening in Syria included atrocities that could amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Today, more than 220,000 people have been killed and more than a million injured. Some 7.6 million have been displaced inside the country, and more than 4 million have fled across its borders. And the violence continues with utter impunity.

Over the past month, that violence, which has been perpetrated by all parties to the conflict, has neither abated nor diminished in brutality. The continued use of explosive weapons in populated towns and cities in Aleppo, Dar'a, Idlib, Damascus, Deir ez-Zor and Hasakeh governorates, among others, has killed hundreds of people, many of them children, and displaced tens of thousands. Indiscriminate attacks on Government-controlled areas in Aleppo killed at least 116 people in April and May, nearly half of them women and children. In the past week, the situation has deteriorated significantly in Kobani/Ain Al-Arab following attacks by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) aimed at reclaiming that city, which have reportedly resulted in civilian deaths and further displacement.

The Government's use of barrel bombs in populated areas has continued, causing hundreds of civilian deaths and widespread destruction across the country. Some of those incidents are described in the Secretary-General's report (S/2015/468), including barrel-bomb attacks that killed more than 200 civilians in Aleppo, at least 24 of them children. A barrel-bomb attack on a mosque in Aleppo on 22 June reportedly killed 10 people. Attacks on medical facilities continue, in blatant disregard for international humanitarian law and resolution 2139 (2014). According to the Physicians for Human Rights organization, the month of May was the worst on record for such attacks since the start of the conflict, with 15 verified attacks on medical facilities, all by aerial bombardment, including eight barrel-bomb attacks. Ten medical staffers were killed.

Intense fighting across the country has displaced tens of thousands more people. In Tel Abyad, some 50,000 people have been forced from their homes since May. In Dar'a, fighting between Government forces and non-State armed groups began in the early hours of 24 June, displacing at least 40,000 people. In the city of Hasakeh, an ISIL attack displaced at least 60,000 people in the past week, and in Raqqa, thousands of Kurds were told by ISIL to leave the governorate. Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon continue to bear the lion's share of the ever-growing burden of caring for those who flee Syria. Turkey, for example, is already hosting 1.8 million refugees, and took in at least 23,000 of those who fled Tel Abyad in mid-June. I would like to thank those neighbours of Syria and to echo the comments made recently on the subject by the High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. António Guterres (see S/PV.7433).

The rest of the world should step up to do substantively more to address the consequences of this conflict. It is crucial that other countries welcome Syrians who are seeking a safe haven.

Despite the extremely challenging environment, humanitarian organizations operating from within Syria and from neighbouring countries continue to reach millions of people in need. Each month, the World Food Programme (WFP) has been feeding approximately 4.1 million people; the World Health Organization is distributing medicines and supplies to around 2.7 million; and UNICEF is reaching 2.2 million with water, sanitation services, education and other support. The Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees continues to provide more than 240,000 people with core relief items and protection services, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East supports around 480,000 Palestine refugees. That is complemented by the ongoing programmes run by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which reached more than a million people in May.

However, aid deliveries to the 4.8 million people in need in hard-to-reach areas remain a serious challenge, owing to active conflicts, poor security and deliberate obstruction by the parties to the conflict. United Nations agencies and partners are reaching only about 34 per cent of hard-to-reach and besieged areas every month. Of the 48 inter-agency requests made to the Government so far in 2015, 20 were approved following meetings in April and June and 12 have been put on hold because of poor security, leaving 16 awaiting Government approval. The recent progress in the approval of access to some locations must continue, and we call on the Government to approve the pending requests and allow rapid, unimpeded and sustainable access to all hard-to-reach locations. We also note the Government's quick approvals in May and June of a number of short-term visas for United Nations and international NGO staff to attend humanitarian meetings hosted in Damascus within the context of the whole of Syria, and we very much hope that trend will continue.

Parties to the conflict continue to besiege 422,000 civilians. Some humanitarian assistance, including medical supplies, was delivered to eastern Ghouta, besieged by Government forces, during April and May, and assistance was airlifted into western neighbourhoods of Deir ez-Zor under siege from ISIL forces. But the assistance that the United Nations and partners have managed to get into besieged areas in the past three months has been wholly inadequate. Aid agencies are working hard to assist the millions of Syrians affected by the conflict. But those efforts require adequate resources. Only a quarter of the total appeal for lifesaving work in Syria and the region has been funded as of today, and food assistance across the region is now in jeopardy.

Since January, WFP has had to reduce its food provisions by 30 per cent, and more cuts are anticipated in the next three months owing to serious funding shortfalls.

Resolution 2165 (2014) continues to be a strong tool for humanitarian organizations attempting to reach Syrians in need. Resolutions 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) have enabled the United Nations and partners to reach people in need who were largely inaccessible before. United Nations cross-border food and medical shipments have increased significantly over the past six months. The 92 shipments since 1 December have included food assistance for 2.6 million people; basic household items for more than 1 million people; medical supplies and treatments for over 1 million people; and water and sanitation supplies for more than 600,000 people. Active fighting and shifting conflict lines have had an impact on the use of certain crossing points. Given the fluid and dynamic nature of the conflict in Syria, it is crucial for United Nations agencies to be able to use any and every route — across both borders and conflict lines — to reach those who require assistance.

The parties to the conflict continue to violate human rights and international humanitarian law with impunity by killing and torturing civilians, blocking humanitarian access and destroying and besieging communities. The siege on more than 422,000 people must be lifted. Those who need protection and assistance in all parts of Syria must be provided with rapid and unhindered access to such assistance, including to medical services and surgical supplies. The relentless use of barrel bombs by the Government must be halted immediately, as must other forms of indiscriminate attacks on civilians, which are strictly prohibited under international humanitarian law. We look to the Council to pressure the parties to get them to protect civilians and abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law, and to promote and seek systematic accountability for violations.

For the people of Syria and the humanitarians who assist them, it is hard to see an end to this nightmare of

violence and destruction. We look to the leadership of the Council to press for a political solution.

The President: I thank Ms. Khang for her briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): After the issuance of the Secretary-General's sixteenth report (S/2015/468) on the implementation of resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014), on the humanitarian situation in Syria, there are still some Member States in the Organization that deal with that painful situation in isolation from the foreign interventionist, political, economic and military backdrop. Perhaps that situation reaches its utmost level of absurdity when those Member States present themselves as both the opponent and the judge at the same time. It is currently clear for everyone that many of those who lament the misery of the Syrian people are — in reality — the ones causing such misery. The cards are now on the table, the veil has fallen, and the shedding of Syrian blood in the north and south of the country is coordinated through attacks organized in the operational military and intelligence headquarters in both Jordan and Turkey.

That reality proves the lack of correctness and credibility in the approach adopted by some parties, since the beginning of the crisis, in dealing with the situation in Syria in general and with the humanitarian issue in particular.

To settle political scores with the Syrian Government is one thing, while to adopt internationally unacceptable coercive measures against the Syrian people is something else.

To disagree with the Syrian Government is one thing, while to deny Syria's role in protecting its people and maintaining its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity — and to refuse to coordinate the fight against terrorism with Syria and provide it with humanitarian assistance — is another thing.

To see the reality and deal with it as it is — in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law — is one thing, while to be obsessed with targeting the Syrian Government with baseless allegations and to interfere in Syrian domestic affairs is something else.

To deal with the catastrophic consequences of the humanitarian crisis in Syria is one thing, while to ignore the root causes of the crisis and to be preoccupied with marginal issues is something else entirely.

There is no doubt that improving the humanitarian situation in Syria — in concrete and real terms — entails abandoning the wrong approach that I have just referred to. We cannot talk about ending the suffering and hardships of Syrians or about ending the humanitarian crisis in Syria against a backdrop of silence on Turkey and Jordan's continued use of their territories as bases and conduits for foreign terrorists and mercenaries. We cannot end the humanitarian crisis as long as the regimes in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and other countries still prefer to support terrorism generously and call it a revolution instead of funding the humanitarian response plan — funding for which has not yet exceeded 25 per cent.

How can we improve the humanitarian situation in the country in the light of the fact that the American Central Intelligence Agency spends $1 billion annually, according to the Washington Post, on training terrorists in camps in Jordan, Qatar, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, as well in some European States, so as to form an army of 10,000 so-called moderate terrorists?

That was not included in Mr. Ban's report and would never be included in his reports.

The sponsors of terror try to link every heinous act on earth to the Syrian State; they have fabricated false witnesses; they have organized formal and informal conferences and meetings within and outside the United Nations. The last meeting of that type was the recent Arria Formula meeting, organized by France and Spain. The goal of those meetings has been to tarnish the image of the Syrian Government. However, they have deliberately neglected the role of the armed gangs that they brought into Syria to commit murder, slaughter, looting and ethnic and religious cleansing. They have ignored the massacres and murders committed by those gangs against civilians before each meeting of the Security Council on Syria. They have conducted interviews with takfiri and terrorist warlords, with gunmen, with those armed with machetes and swords, with those who eat human livers and hearts, and have given them legitimacy. They have presented them to the media as revolutionaries in order to cover up the slaughter, bloodshed, rape, captivity, bombings and beheadings. They have ignored the indiscriminate mortar shells that fall daily on civilians in Damascus, Aleppo and other Syrian cities, killing thousands of innocent people.

The Saudi documents newly leaked through WikiLeaks prove that Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia have been working since the first months of the crisis in Syria to militarize the situation by providing money, weapons and support to terrorist groups. They have successively referred to that as the "Arab spring", peaceful mobility and then moderate movement. WikiLeaks has also revealed that those three regimes in particular have formed a joint military committee for that purpose. It might be useful for some colleagues in the Council to familiarize themselves with the contents of the telegram sent by the Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon to his capital on 1 March 2012, during the first year of the crisis in Syria, while some delegations in the Council were maintaining that what was happening in Syria was a purely peaceful "spring" movement.

Here I will quote an excerpt from the cable sent by the Saudi Ambassador:

> "We must continue to support the Syrian armed resistance by offering a high salary to each recruit defecting from the regular army and providing weapons equal to those possessed by the regime. We must support the neighbouring countries of Syria, especially Jordan, and also provide financial support to the populations living close to the Syrian borders with Lebanon and Iraq in order to promote an environment conducive to the Syrian revolution".

Before the leaking of the Saudi documents, the Turkish press revealed certain videos that proved the involvement of the Erdoğan regime in smuggling weapons into Syria by way of convoys intended to contain medical aid. By the way, those convoys passed through the border checkpoints requested by OCHA at the time of the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014) on humanitarian access. At that time, we had requested guarantees on the communications and nationalities mechanism, but they were never provided by the Secretariat. However, they did provide weapons, instead of humanitarian assistance, through the border checkpoints that OCHA had insisted on in the light of resolution 2165 (2014).

Judge Aziz Takçı, one of the four Turkish judges arrested by the Erdoğan regime after the scandal, has confirmed that more than 2,000 trucks loaded with missiles, rockets and bombs have been sent to Syria through Turkey. Also, the leader of the Turkish People's Democratic Party has confirmed that the massacre that took place in the town of Ayn al-Arab/Kobani last week, which claimed the lives of dozens of Syrians, was a result of the years of support by the Turkish Government to Daesh extremists. The Daesh terrorists travelled to Ayn al-Arab through Turkish territory.

Prior to the aforementioned scandals, United Nations reports revealed the smuggling of weapons from Libya to Syria via Turkey and Lebanon. Prior to the current report, we forwarded to the Secretary-General and to the Council all of the documents and information proving the involvement of Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia in the smuggling of weapons and facilitating the entry of terrorists into my country, Syria.

However, we have encountered and continue to encounter the flagrant denial of that by some members of the Council. Yet with each passing day, the correctness and credibility of our statements made since the beginning of the crisis, both within and outside the Council, have become increasingly clear, and now the crimes of terrorism have reached the countries of those that were denying its presence in Syria.

I would like to emphasize that the Syrian Government is ready to cooperate with all sincere stakeholders in the Security Council to improve the humanitarian situation in Syria, despite our awareness that some members of the Council have gone too far in their support for terrorism and have thus become part of the problem rather than part of the solution. Some of those members have used their support for human rights and the provision of protection and assistance to civilians as a tool to exert pressure in order to settle political scores with the Syrian Government.

In order to prove the hypocrisy and double standards related to the efforts of those countries in dealing with those noble principles, it is enough to note that they not only hid the Saudi regime's support for terrorism in Syria, but they went even further by covering up the Saudi war crimes in Yemen. In fact, such actions have prevented the delivery of humanitarian aid, thus causing widespread famine in Yemen, especially in the holy month of Ramadan. The Saudi regime has prevented even aircraft operated by the Red Cross from delivering medical aid to Yemen.

Despite all of that, we have not seen any of the Member States that have appointed themselves the promoters of human rights and the protectors of civilians in Syria say a word to condemn such Saudi practices. Yet those Member States have not missed an

opportunity to hold fabricated emergency meetings and side events in order to direct false allegations against the Syrian Government, which has so far signed six humanitarian response plans with the United Nations enabling it to provide humanitarian assistance to nearly 10.5 million Syrian citizens in April, May and June.

Of course, the report did not mention the Syrian Government's cooperation. All of the assistance that was described in the report was indicated as being provided by United Nations agencies, disregarding the Syrian Government's efforts to provide protection to the agencies that are providing aid.

In Syria, we are fighting terrorism on behalf of humanity as a whole. The Syrian army, by eliminating foreign terrorists in Syria, is protecting dozens of innocent people who could become potential victims of those terrorists when they return to their countries to carry out such activities there. The recent tragic events in Tunisia, France and Kuwait have proved us right.

Those who seek to discredit that illuminating truth are partners in spreading the scourge of terrorism. However, Syria's steadfast Government, people and army have led the Security Council to adopt three important resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, on combating Daesh, the Al-Nusra Front and other terrorist organizations, as well as on combating the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters.

Despite the lack of implementation of those resolutions and despite the many groups that are conspiring against us in Syria and continuing to provide misinformation and false allegations, we will continue to fight our war against terrorism in order to protect our people and to rid the world of that scourge. The terrorist war has been unleashed and is now hitting targets in Damascus and Baghdad and spreading to Abuja and Tunisia. It has reached Kuwait and Paris and Sydney and Boston. The Council is therefore called upon to wake up before it has regrets, at a time when regret will have no benefit.

Finally, the Government of Syria is exerting its utmost effort to end the crisis in Syria via the peaceful means adopted by the Security Council and, naturally, approved by the Syrian Government and by all of those with good intentions. We will continue to exert peaceful efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the Syrian crisis, without foreign intervention in Syria's domestic affairs.

The President: I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7477

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7477th meeting

Monday, 29 June 2015, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mrs. Adnin	(Malaysia)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gimolieca
	Chad	Mr. Mahamat
	Chile	Mr. Olguín Cigarroa
	China	Mr. Xu Zhongsheng
	France	Mr. Stehelin
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Mrs. Jakubonė
	New Zealand	Ms. Lennox-Marwick
	Nigeria	Mr. Haidara
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. De la Calle García
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Mulvein
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 3 March to 28 May 2015 (S/2015/405)

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15-20069 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 3 March to 28 May 2015 (S/2015/405)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2015/474, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

I wish to draw Council members' attention to document S/2015/405, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 3 March to 28 May 2015.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2229 (2015).

The meeting rose at 3.05 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7478

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7478th meeting
Monday, 29 June 2015, 3.05 p.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Adnin	(Malaysia)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Gombo
	Chile	Mr. Olguín Cigarroa
	China	Mr. Xu Zhongsheng
	France	Mr. Stehelin
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Mrs. Jakubonė
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mr. Adamu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Mulvein
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I now give the floor to Ms. Bensouda.

Ms. Bensouda: We are meeting once again as I present my Office's twenty-first report on Darfur, Sudan, pursuant to resolution 1593 (2005).

Today's briefing also takes place over six years after the issuance of the first warrant of arrest against Mr. Omer Al-Bashir. To those who choose to forget the events that have brought us here, and in particular those who have chosen to deliberately distort facts by alleging that the International Criminal Court (ICC) imposed itself on the Sudan, I would like to briefly recall some crucial facts.

Lest we forget, on 29 October 2009, the African Union (AU) endorsed the report and recommendations of the African Union High-Level Panel on Darfur, led by the former President of South Africa, Mr Thabo Mbeki. This comprehensive 125-page report, entitled "Darfur – the quest for peace, justice and reconciliation", recommended a range of steps the Sudanese Government ought to take to advance these objectives. They included the creation of a hybrid court composed of Sudanese and non-Sudanese judges and other officials to investigate and prosecute serious crimes committed in Darfur in violation of international law, as well as broad reforms to the country's criminal justice system. In particular, the Mbeki Panel opined,

> "should Sudan make genuine efforts to address the crimes in Darfur, the judges of the ICC would be required to evaluate those steps to consider whether they meet the requirements of Article 17 [of the Rome Statute, which gives preference to national courts unless States in question cannot or will not prosecute]. The final determination of this issue, however, is for the judges of the ICC alone".

The role of the International Criminal Court in efforts to end the atrocities committed in Darfur and to hold those most responsible accountable, is crucial and has a well-known history. Indeed, it is a role equally well recognized by the African Unon at the genesis of the exercise of the Court's jurisdiction vis-à-vis Darfur, Sudan. Notably, the Mbeki Panel went on to say:

> "Whilst the ICC action might be a catalyst for acts of accountability in Sudan, Darfurians deserve attention not because of the threat of international action, but principally because they have a right to justice, in their own country, on account of what they have suffered".

The question we need to ask ourselves today is whether the people of Darfur, Sudan, who continue to endure the suffering widely recognized by the Mbeki Panel and the African Union, among others, will ever receive the justice they deserve? Will their plight finally be answered through independent and impartial justice, or will their cries continue to face silent inaction?

In my last briefing on Darfur (see S/PV.7337), I stated that given the Council's failure to act decisively on numerous acts of defiance of its resolution 1593 (2005) by the Government of the Sudan and given the limited resources at my disposal, I was left with no choice but to limit active investigations. My message was addressed to the Council to encourage the exercise of its powers to ensure justice for the long-suffering victims of atrocity crimes in the Sudan. It was a clarion call to the Council that it is long overdue to heed the cries of the victims of rape, sexual abuse, torture, mass displacement and other kinds of inhumane suffering that Darfurians continue to endure.

As always, detractors and their spin doctors have deliberately distorted the call for Security Council action as a victory for Mr. Al-Bashir and other suspects in the Darfur situation. Let me be clear. My Office's determination to bring independent and impartial justice to the people of the Sudan remains unshaken. The efforts of detractors and naysayers only serve to strengthen our resolve and spur us to double our efforts in that regard. Mr. Al-Bashir's rapid departure from South Africa proves that the warrants of arrest against

him are as valid as they were when issued. They remain in full force and effect, and my Office is committed to ensure that they are executed.

While Mr. Al-Bashir may have escaped the law in South Africa through an unanticipated and premature departure from the twenty-fourth African Union Summit, the swift judicial action of South African courts we have witnessed is a shining precedent that must be emulated in other States. More generally, the High Court's ruling on South Africa has also underlined a growing recognition by domestic courts of States' obligations to uphold their commitments under international law and, in this case, the Rome Statute.

As the Court's own presiding Judge of the Pre-Trial Chamber made clear on Saturday, 13 June, there existed no ambiguity or uncertainty with respect to the obligation of the Republic of South Africa to immediately arrest and surrender Mr. Omer Al-Bashir to the Court and that the competent authorities of the Republic of South Africa were already aware of that obligation. Mr. Al-Bashir's hasty retreats in Kenya, Nigeria and now South Africa are also largely due to the vigilance and tireless efforts of civil society. The courage and commitment of civil society are to be commended. More importantly, such selfless efforts must humble us and remind us of the spirit of 1998, when the hopes and aspirations of humanity combined in a rare historical moment to create the International Criminal Court with the promise "never again".

The International Justice Project, with the ICC at its nucleus, demands sustained and robust support if it is to succeed and propel us forward towards a more just and peaceful world. We must not allow that virtuous undertaking of humanity to be chipped away or ultimately sacrificed at the altar of political expediency. It is past time for the Council and States to join forces with the Court and civil society in devising concrete and effective strategies for the arrest of accused persons wanted by the Court and to give the ICC the full support it requires and to which it is entitled in order to implement the Rome Statute as intended.

My Office has encouraged States parties to find innovative ways to support those among them that are most likely to receive visits from wanted individuals to be proactive and to make practical plans for the safe and effective arrest of persons against whom warrants of arrest have been issued by the Court. I encourage States parties to plan ahead for the arrest in a targeted and efficient manner of each individual wanted by the Court. The longer such persons remain at large, the greater the risk that further atrocities will be committed, contributing to instability and insecurity.

The deteriorating security situation in Darfur continues to be a matter of great concern, not only for my Office, but for the broader international community and, undoubtedly, for the Council. Innocent civilians continue to bear the brunt of insecurity and instability, notably as a result of what appears to be an ongoing Government campaign to target them. The frequency and brutality of the targeting of civilians, particularly women, are especially troubling. The people alleged to be most responsible for those ongoing atrocities are the same people against whom warrants of arrest have already been issued. Needless to say, arresting them and bringing them to face justice is the only way to stop those crimes.

In that context, I must emphasize that my Office's investigations into the alleged crimes committed in Darfur are continuing, albeit not at the pace or intensity we would have liked. The fact remains that my Office has finite resources and a heavy caseload and is therefore struggling to commit to full, active investigations of the ongoing crimes in Darfur. That however, should not in any way be misconstrued or interpreted to mean that investigations have been closed or that we have abandoned the victims of mass atrocities in Darfur — in fact, far from it. A team of lawyers and investigators dedicated to the Darfur investigations in my Office continues to carry out its work, albeit with a limited capacity given resource constraints, the lack of access to the Sudan and inadequate support and follow-up from the Council. My Darfur team's activities have had to be limited to monitoring and documenting incidents as they occur and to conducting witness interviews where possible and necessary. I urge anyone with reliable information and potential evidence of ongoing crimes in Darfur to contact my Office and to proactively support the ongoing investigation.

On 26 June, the Pre-Trial Chamber of the ICC found that the Government of the Sudan is in non-compliance for its failure to arrest and surrender Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein to the ICC. That is in addition to the 9 March finding of the same Pre-Trial Chamber that the Sudan has failed to cooperate with the ICC by not arresting and surrendering Mr. Omar Al-Bashir. The Judges have communicated those findings to the Council for action. The latest judicial findings bring the number of such non-compliance communications

to the Council to 10. I urge the Council to give urgent attention to those communications.

Following an independent assessment of whether to open an investigation pursuant to a Security Council referral, if the decision by the Court is affirmative, then the Rome Statute legal framework foresees a clear role for the Council in the case of the non-compliance of States. It is imperative for the Council to recognize its crucial role vis-à-vis those States found to be non-compliant by the Court and to assume its responsibilities to advance the objectives of the Rome Statute. Therefore, I reiterate the call on the Council to ensure the Sudan's compliance with resolution 1593 (2005) and equally call on States parties to the Rome Statute to promote cooperation and effect the arrest of individuals wanted by the ICC in the Darfur situation.

Similarly, I urge ICC States parties to take the lead in assessing how best individuals for whom warrants have been issued by the Court can be arrested and surrendered to the ICC. That dialogue is past due and my Office encourages it to be given the urgency it deserves. As the Judges of the Court have put it, if there is no follow-up action on the part of the Security Council, any referral by the Council to the ICC under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations would never achieve its ultimate goal; namely, to put an end to impunity. Accordingly, any such referral would become futile.

My Office welcomes the ongoing dialogue with States parties to the Rome Statute, through the caucus of States parties in the Council. The caucus is an important step towards building institutional memory on justice issues within the Council and ensuring that justice remains an integral part of the Council's discussions. I encourage the leadership of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC and their offices to continue to consider how interaction between the caucus and the Assembly of States Parties may strengthen the justice community's interactions at the United Nations.

In conclusion, let me restate that there is more that we can and must do to achieve peace and justice in Darfur. I will continue to do my part in the exercise of my independent and impartial mandate. The support of partners, including civil society from the Sudan and elsewhere, States Parties in general and the United Nations remains crucial for my work. It must be stressed that the Council also has a vital role to play and must do its part.

The President: I thank Ms. Bensouda for her briefing.

I now give the floor to the members of the Council.

Mr. Olguín Cigarroa (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would like to thank the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Ms. Fatou Bensouda, for her briefing. The climate of violence and impunity continues in Darfur. That is why we believe that the Council should adopt a more active stance with regard to follow-up of that situation in the context of the ICC.

Chile condemns the serious crimes described in the report of the Prosecutor of the ICC, which continue to be investigated. Those include aerial bombardments; attacks on civilians; sexual and gender-based violence; attacks on human rights activists, members of civil society and community leaders; and the kidnapping of and attacks against those providing humanitarian assistance and those involved in peacekeeping operations.

The referral of this information to the Court and the periodic reports to the Council are not sufficient. We urge the Council to strengthen its channels for dialogue with the Court and with the Prosecutor to enable them to respond to the requests made of them. We reiterate that the success of the investigations and proceedings of the ICC require the cooperation of States in their capacity as States parties to the Rome Statute and in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, which are the documents that underpin resolution 1593 (2005). Unfortunately, in the case of Darfur, the Prosecutor has repeatedly indicated to the Council that the Sudan has failed to cooperate. Chile reiterates its call on all States involved to cooperate with the Court to implement its rulings.

Equally worrisome is the fact that, as the Prosecutor has indicated, grave violations continue to be committed within the area of competence of the Court, in violation of the Rome Statute. It is essential that efforts be redoubled to achieve a system in which the rule of law and human rights are respected, while allowing for full compliance with the obligation to cooperate with the Court and the Prosecutor in order to put an end to all cases of impunity.

The Council has addressed the humanitarian situation in Darfur on many occasions. We call for the implementation of the relevant resolutions that followed resolution 1593 (2005), which referred the situation to

the Court and highlighted the need for a cessation of violence against civilians, in particular women and children. We reiterate our call for all of those resolutions be fully implemented.

We would like to conclude by reaffirming the value of the work of the Court, in particular the work of Prosecutor Bensouda.

Mr. Stehelin (France) (*spoke in French*): I too would like to thank the Prosecutor for presenting her twenty-first report.

On 31 March 2005, the Security Council adopted resolution 1593 (2005), which noted that the situation in the Sudan constituted a threat to international peace and security and referred the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC). In the resolution, the Council took note of the report of the International Commission of Inquiry on violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law in Darfur (S/2005/60), which had established the serious and systematic nature of the crimes in Darfur.

In its 2005 debates, the Council recalled that the referral had been presented as a way to prevent new atrocities by fighting against impunity and ensuring stability in the Sudan, which was a precondition for its development. It is useful, first of all, to return to the origins of those debates, and in some way to the spirit that must guide the interpretation and implementation of the resolution. Indeed, the Council remains responsible for the resolutions it adopts and compliance with them by the parties concerned.

Ten years later, it is clear that the same chain of cause and effect identified in 2005 is still feeding the cycle of violence. As highlighted in the report of the Prosecutor, the situation in Darfur is not improving and has even deteriorated, the intensity of the violence having reached one of the most alarming levels recorded in this conflict. France is deeply concerned about the intensification of fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and rebel groups in the Jebel Marra and Northern Darfur, in particular the aerial bombing campaign, which indiscriminately targets civilians.

Civilians continue to be the primary victims of a form of collective punishment, as evidenced by the approximately 121,000 people displaced in the Jebel Marra since January. Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in particular sexual violence, are continuing with complete impunity. In this context, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) is prevented from to carrying out its mandate due to the attacks and restrictions on access to which it is subject.

At the same time, the arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court have yet to be executed. Five individuals accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity and, in one case, genocide continue to evade the Court's jurisdiction. Most of them continue to occupy the highest offices in the Sudanese State apparatus. How is it not clear that this impunity encourages further and renewed abuses?

While 2015 could, in humanitarian terms, be even worse than 2014, in which 430,000 people were newly displaced, the solutions are well known to the Council. They include, first, the conclusion and implementation of a political solution involving the Government and rebel groups; secondly, effective protection of civilians and UNAMID's exercise of its mandate; and thirdly, unimpeded humanitarian access to civilian populations and displaced persons.

Finally, identifying the persons responsible for crimes and an effective fight against impunity remain essential. We welcome the commitment of the Office of the Prosecutor during the period covered by the report. The Office obtained from the Pre-Trial Chamber two decisions of non-cooperation against the Sudan, in the Al-Bashir case on 9 March 2015, and in the Hussein case on 26 June 2015, bringing the total to 10. We recall the importance of States' duty to cooperate, without which the prosecution of the most serious crimes by the ICC will remain dead letter. As recalled by the Prosecutor, the primary responsibility lies with the Sudan as the State with the territorial jurisdiction to execute the arrest warrants and cooperate with the Court as required by resolution 1593 (2005). However, the Sudan not only refuses to cooperate at all with the Court, but also takes no action to allowing victims access to independent and impartial justice.

Under these circumstances, in order to ensure compliance with resolution 1593 (2005) and consistency with the conditions of its adoption in 2005, the arrest warrants be carried out. The Council must respond to cases of non-cooperation with the Court, and the Assembly of States Parties must remain mobilized. In this regard, France welcomes the efforts by its President, Mr. Sidiki Kaba. At the same time, contacts with the persons subject to arrest warrants by the Court must be limited to those deemed essential, in line with the Secretary-General's policy. France calls on the

United Nations as a whole to continue to implement that guidance.

Civilian populations were at the core of the Security Council's approach in 2005 when resolution 1593 (2005) was adopted. They must remain so today to bolster the Council in its struggle against impunity and its support for UNAMID. The Hybrid Mission, which brings together the United Nations and African Union, is making every effort to fulfil its mandate in conditions rendered particularly difficult by the obstacles it systematically encounters. Some of the interested parties would wish above all for the Mission to be purely and simply withdrawn, with no consideration for the actual situation on the ground. Any such approach would be counterproductive, since its only effect would be to make civilians even more vulnerable to the spiral of violence, which could further destabilize the Sudan and the region and usher in a dangerous cycle.

UNAMID must pursue clear objectives and develop long-term planning giving it a strategic view of its mission. Improving the situation of civilian populations must remain its lodestar; it must also continue to support the search for a political solution, the only kind that will work in the long term. The Council has just renewed the mandate of UNAMID, which all of us must now unequivocally support in the accomplishment of its mission. We owe that to the people of Darfur.

It is not without a sense of failure that we are obliged to make these observations some 10 years after the adoption of resolution 1593 (2005). Let that date, however, remind us of the continuing relevance of the Security Council's intentions and vision in 2005. Now more than ever, it behoves us to put into practical effect our decision and cooperation with the Court, to which that resolution has fundamentally and indissolubly linked us in the essential common objective of fighting impunity.

Mrs. Jakubonė (Lithuania): I thank Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, for her briefing to update the Council on the referral of the situation in Darfur. My delegation commends the Office of the Prosecutor for its sustained efforts to fulfil the mandate given to the Court by the Security Council a decade ago. We agree with the assessment contained in the Prosecutor's twenty-first report and regret the persistence of major impediments to bringing those responsible for crimes in Darfur to account.

The sad reality of today's meeting, like that of the previous ones, is that we need to reflect on yet another six months that have added to the suffering of the people of Darfur. As the latest reports clearly indicate, the ongoing security and humanitarian crisis in Darfur continues to be marked by widespread violence, impunity and displacement. Civilians continue to be targeted by both Government and armed militias, and to suffer from indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks, including on ethnic grounds. Raids on villages and camps of internally displaced persons camps dominate the daily life of innocent people, including women and children. The humanitarian situation is dire, while the delivery of humanitarian assistance continues to be hindered. Humanitarian aid workers and peacekeepers are subject to constant attacks throughout Darfur. Widespread sexual and gender-based violence has become a horrible feature of Darfur's conflict — and the list goes on, as detailed in the Prosecutor's report.

Earlier this year, in its resolution 2200 (2015), the Security Council expressed its deep concern regarding the increased violence and insecurity in Darfur in recent months. It emphasized the imperative for all armed actors to refrain from acts of violence against civilians. Similar concerns were also voiced at the recent briefing and consultations on Darfur. As the Prosecutor advises in her report, numerous trends in Darfur may amount to crimes under the Rome Statute, and while we concur that the Prosecutor's Office needs to think strategically and prioritize its workload, we urge it to continue to closely monitor various crimes allegedly committed in Darfur.

There is no doubt that the situation in Darfur is complex and multifaceted, but one thing is clear. Attacks against civilians there are largely possible because of the prevailing climate of impunity, and because violence breeds more violence. That cannot continue, and all perpetrators of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law must be brought to justice. The Government of the Sudan should do more to end attacks against civilians, ensure accountability and bring justice for the victims.

One message from the Prosecutor has also been clear and consistent at this and previous meetings. It is of the utmost importance that the Government of the Sudan and other parties meet their obligation under resolution 1593 (2005) to cooperate with the Court, including in the execution of those arrest warrants issued by the Court that remain outstanding. The

Court's latest decision against the Republic of the Sudan for non-compliance is a serious reminder that the Security Council needs to follow up on its referral. The Council has a special commitment with regard to the situation in Darfur, and needs to act vigorously to ensure that its own resolution is fully implemented.

The report of the Prosecutor, however, reminds us that a lack of cooperation persists on the part not only of the Government of the Sudan but also of other States. The lack of cooperation undermines international efforts to fight impunity, although there are some encouraging responses from national judiciaries. We therefore urge all States to cooperate fully with the Court in its investigations and prosecutions in Darfur. We also take note of the Prosecutor's suggestion that this is not a challenge only for those States parties to the Rome Statute that the suspects may visit.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Lithuania's full support for and cooperation with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in carrying out her important mandate.

Mr. Pressman (United States of America): The public discussion of Darfur in recent weeks and months has centred on three terms: hibernation, exit strategy and non-cooperation. In each case, however, there is a deeper story to tell, and with respect to all three the discussion would benefit from a renewed focus on those men, women and children in Darfur who have suffered greatly from the fighting and violence. That is especially noteworthy now, since the violence and suffering are approaching levels that have not been seen since 2004.

In December 2014, the Prosecutor announced that she would hibernate investigative activities in Darfur. We welcome her clarification that this does not mean the end of her work on the situation in Darfur, but we were and are alarmed that the Sudan's non-cooperation has pushed her to such a point, and we must highlight, in response to those who see this as in some way a victory over the International Criminal Court, that, as the Prosecutor also emphasizes in her report, arrest warrants remain outstanding and prosecutors are continuing to work on the cases as much as possible. We think it is serious cause for concern and an affront to the victims of atrocities in Darfur that the individuals subject to outstanding arrest warrants related to the Darfur situation remain at large.

We have also heard considerable discussion of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) exit strategy at a time when we need a greater focus on conditions inside Darfur, where the situation is deadly and deteriorating. The reported events of the past year have been alarming. Aerial bombardments, the number of which the Prosecutor described as having significantly increased, kill children and destroy hospitals and humanitarian facilities; sexual violence is wielded against women and girls with impunity, including, reportedly, in Thabit, where an investigation into alleged mass rapes remains incomplete, stymied by the Sudan's systematic denial of independent access to UNAMID personnel. Villages have been burned and communities' very means of survival are destroyed. Increased fighting among the armed groups and intercommunal violence have driven the displacement of over 573,000 people since the beginning of 2014.

The need for UNAMID, and the need for it to have full and unfettered access to conduct its work, are more acute than ever across all of Darfur, including in the light of the Prosecutor's decision to hibernate her new investigative work. It is important for UNAMID not just to protect civilians and facilitate humanitarian work, but also to continue to document the ongoing violations and abuses. That is reiterated in the latest communiqué of the African Union Peace and Security Council of 22 June.

Finally, with regard to the issue of non-cooperation, while members of the international community do not see eye to eye on many aspects of the Darfur crisis, we believe that there is abundant common ground among the members of the Council on the fact that States Members of the United Nations have obligations under the Charter to accept and carry out the Security Council's decisions. The Government of the Sudan continues to disregard the Council's decision in resolution 1593 (2005) that it must cooperate fully with and provide any necessary assistance to the Court and the Prosecutor. Surely we can agree that the Council has an interest in ensuring compliance with its own decisions. We continue to urge the international community to ensure compliance by the Sudan with its international obligations under resolution 1593 (2005).

The Council must also continue to focus on the need for accountability in Darfur, because it was us who sent peacekeepers into harm's way, and we owe them our support. Attacks on peacekeepers in Darfur have killed

citizens of Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania and Rwanda, among others. Often lost in the debates about President Al-Bashir is the fact that one of the areas of focus of the International Criminal Court's investigations has been the 2007 attack on the brave soldiers who served in the African Union's peacekeeping mission there. In the absence of any national proceedings in Darfur to investigate and provide accountability for those crimes, we must be able to come together and express support for efforts to prosecute deliberate attacks on peacekeepers — attacks that very much continue to this day, as described in the Prosecutor's report. For example, on 26 April, the Government of the Sudan denied a flight request for the emergency medical evacuation of an Ethiopian peacekeeper, injured while performing his duties in Mukjar, Western Darfur. The evacuation flight clearance was denied and the peacekeeper died hours later.

Finally, in the light of recent events, I would like to reiterate that the United States opposes invitations to and facilitation of travel by those subject to outstanding International Criminal Court arrest warrants related to the situation in Darfur, and we are not alone in stressing the continued need for accountability. Voices from South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya have been clear and unequivocal. It was a South African organization that approached its own courts to seek enforcement of the ICC arrest warrant. It was Nigerian activists who discouraged a prolonged stay in their country, and it was a Kenyan court that ruled that the Government there must arrest Al-Bashir should he ever set foot there.

All that said, the discussion of hibernation, exit strategy and non-cooperation too often loses sight of the men, women and children who have been suffering from the ongoing conflict and violence in Darfur. It is their plight that makes the need for accountability so acute, and we must not turn our backs on them. The United States will continue to work with the Security Council and other partners in the international community to promote an end to the Sudan's many conflicts, and a just and sustainable peace.

Mr. Xu Zhongsheng (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China listened carefully to Prosecutor Bensouda's briefing. The major problems in Darfur recently have been the slow progress of the political process, the refusal of some rebel groups to join the peace process and the continuing use of violence to undermine the region's peace and stability. We welcome and support the efforts of the Sudanese Government and the relevant rebel groups to push for implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, and we hope that all the parties concerned will adhere to the principle of political settlement, join with and actively promote the Document's implementation and seek a comprehensive political settlement of the question of Darfur. We hope that countries that have influence with the rebels will play a constructive role in that regard. The international community should also help to create favourable external conditions for a political settlement of the question of Darfur.

China's position on the involvement of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the issue remains unchanged. We also believe that the concerns of the African Union and the countries concerned about the ICC's involvement should be given full attention.

Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda for her briefing, and to convey Spain's congratulations to the International Criminal Court (ICC) on its work, particularly regarding the Sudan.

In reading the Prosecutor's report, I get a clear sense of the level of frustration there. We are marking the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1593 (2005), and in that context I find the failures that have occurred to be striking. On 31 March 2005, the Security Council addressed this situation by adopting that resolution, but today we find ourselves in a situation in which the message we must convey is extremely important. We must send a message to those responsible for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law that impunity cannot be allowed to continue.

The report we heard today is the Prosecutor's twenty-first, and it tells us that there have been nine communications of the Court concerning non-coopeation, none of which have been responded to, and six outstanding arrest warrant. This information is most unsatisfactory, and represents 10 years of ongoing defiance on the part of the principal accused and the authorities of the Sudan. The Prosecutor's report for the most recent six-month period describes very discouraging results. There have been some 500 reported incidents, leading to 1,200 violent deaths, more than half of them civilian; increases in the numbers of indiscriminate aerial bombardments; a rise in the number of diplaced persons and cases of sexual violence. Arbitrary detentions and attacks on human rights defenders and humanitarian personnel, as well as

the staff of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, have continued.

I should note that the report mentions a climate of impunity. While that refers to a specific situation, it is unfortunate that we can say that the description can be extended to the whole of Darfur. This situation is unacceptable, particularly in the light of recent developments in international penal law, which has given us the International Criminal Court, the most sophisticated instrument in history for ending impunity. In the Sudan, the Court has carried out its work to the extent that its resources allow. It must have the support it needs to enable it to complete that work. In its 9 March decision on its finding of non-cooperation, the Court's Pre-Trial Chamber was very clear. If there is no follow-up from the Security Council, there can be no accountability for the crimes that have been committed. Our objective is to put an end to impunity, and without the necessary support, the ICC cannot fulfil that part of its mandate under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

As Ms. Bensouda noted on Friday, 26 June, the Pre-Trial Chamber issued another ruling finding non-cooperation by the Sudan in the case of Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein, launched on 1 March 2012. As the Chamber noted, Hussein, who was the Minister of Defence at the time the warrant for his arrest was issued, continues to hold public office and positions of important in the country. In its ruling, the Chamber requested that the President of the Court refer the situation to the Security Council. That would be a new opportunity for the Council to respond to the situation.

With regard to the events of 13 and 14 June in South Africa last month, we echo the comments of the spokesperson of the European Union. We must never forget the vital importance of State cooperation with the International Criminal Court.

In conclusion, I reiterate my Government's gratitude to the Prosecutor and the Court. They deserve our full recognition for their tireless work in Darfur and numerous other areas in the world in fighting impunity and finding justice for victims.

Mr. Lucas (Angola): We welcome the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Ms. Fatou Bensouda. We thank Ms. Bensouda for her briefing on the current judicial activities of the Court and on the situation in Darfur, as contained in her twenty-first report submitted to the Security Council pursuant to resolution 1593 (2005).

We take note of the report's contents, describing persistent violations of human rights and the dire humanitarian situation in Darfur, with allegations of crimes that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, on which the international community must take a clear stance. We strongly urge the parties involved in the conflict to put an end to the hostilities by engaging in meaningful political dialogue conducive to negotiations for a just, global and lasting peace in Darfur and the Sudan as a whole.

Resolution 1593 (2005) emphasizes the need to promote healing and reconciliation, and encourages the creation of institutions involved in all sectors of Sudanese society in order to strengthen, with the support of the African Union and international community, efforts to restore long-lasting peace in Darfur; hence, the international community s stringent call to assist the Sudanese people in solving their differences through dialogue.

The ICC report expresses the position taken on the specific case of the failure of Ethiopia and South Africa to arrest the Sudanese President, which is primarily based on the African Union's decision to call on the African member States to retain their rights, taking into account the importance of preserving and safeguarding the dignity, sovereignty and integrity of the African continent. The request of the African Union to the Security Council to defer the proceedings initiated against President Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan, has been neither heard nor acted upon by the Security Council.

The refusal of the Security Council to act on the African Union's request forced the African Union to reserve its cooperation with the International Criminal Court with respect to immunities for the arrest and surrender of President Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan. In this connection, we appeal to the Security Council to consider the requests of the African Union for a more constructive relationship between the African Union and the ICC. Angola will uphold the position of the African Union on this issue, while advocating for dialogue and negotiations as the only way to solve political disputes in Darfur, the Sudan and elsewhere.

Finally, we call on all the Sudanese parties — in particular, those involved in the conflict in Darfur — to

make sacrifices and concessions and to negotiate, in good faith, a peace settlement establishing accountability, justice and lasting peace in Darfur.

Mr. Van Bohemen (New Zealand): I thank the Prosecutor for her report and briefing.

We are deeply concerned about the situation in Darfur. As the report clearly illustrates, the past six months have seen an increase in violence against civilians, including a significant increase in aerial bombardments and rape on a scale never previously seen in Darfur. Oftentimes, that violence is committed by the Sudanese armed forces and associated militia, and the most vulnerable — women, children and internally displaced persons — are targeted.

Today, we not only mark 10 years since the Council heard the findings of the Commission of Inquiry and its International Criminal Court (ICC) referral, but we also mark another sobering illustration of that crisis. Today, we have the highest number of internally displaced persons from Darfur that we have seen in the past decade — 2.55 million. Today's discussion brings the Council face to face with the fact that one of its key decisions — the Darfur referral to the Court — is being flouted not only by the indictees, but also by States that have Rome Statute commitments. There has also been criticism of the referral by some other African Members of the Organization. This outcome — whatever its causes — is very bad for the Council, for the Court and for peace and justice. The Council, the Court and the African Union, along with their members, need to reflect very deeply about the longer-term implications of the divide between the Court and key African States that were once among the Court's strongest and earliest supporters. That is also a crucial issue for the Assembly of States Parties, which should look, beyond Darfur, at the state of these relationships.

For the Council, we need to reflect on the fact that the Darfur referral has led to a chain of events, with some aspects predictable and some not, resulting in the Court's authority being reduced both within Africa and also more broadly. As a country that is a party to the Court's Statute and committed to upholding the rule of law, New Zealand finds that situation very troubling. We consider that the Council needs to reflect carefully before using its referral power. While referring a situation to the Court may satisfy an immediate objective, if there is no genuine commitment on the part of the Council to support the implementation of that referral, the longer-term consequences could be very negative. The Prosecutor just made a similar point.

The status quo presents challenges for the effectiveness and credibility of both the Council and the Court. The existence of these challenges does not diminish the gravity of the crimes or the need for accountability, nor does it justify inaction. We need to work in a careful and considered way to overcome those challenges, including in the context of referrals. That will not be an easy or a short process, but we believe that it needs to be done. In the case of the Darfur referral, the Sudan's non-compliance with the Council's referral to the ICC is, as we know, not an isolated incident. There is a range of Council interventions in Darfur, and, in fact across the Sudan, and Khartoum's non-compliance or, at best, sporadic acquiescence, is a systemic challenge to them all.

In relation to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), that was highlighted in the peace operations review, which refers to UNAMID as a Mission that is a mere shadow of its original purpose because parties undermine its presence through restrictions on its ability to operate. While we hope that this morning's renewal of the UNAMID mandate will allow the establishment of a new and more cooperative relationship between UNAMID and the Government of the Sudan, the past 10 years have been a sad history of studied non-cooperation by the Government. The same story can be seen even more patently in relation to sanctions, which have since the outset been heavily frustrated by the Sudan.

The backdrop to all of those challenges is an extremely serious humanitarian crisis, including, as we have heard, record numbers of internally displaced persons and widespread human rights violations. After 10 years of the Council failing to make in-roads with the Government of the Sudan or de-escalating the crisis in Darfur, it is the relationship with Khartoum that we should focus on. The Council needs to think hard about how it can change the paradigm with Khartoum, and Khartoum needs equally to think deeply about the relationship it wants with the international community, starting with the Council.

Mrs. Kawar (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda of the International Criminal Court for her briefing this afternoon. I would also like to thank the Prosecutor for presenting her twenty-first report to the Security Council pursuant to resolution 1593 (2005).

We take note of the briefing by the International Criminal Court's Prosecutor and reiterate the importance of the principles that underlie the establishment of the Court. Those principles are extremely important to the pursuit of international justice and to holding accountable those who are responsible for international crimes and war crimes. Moreover, the Court plays an essential role in putting an end to impunity, with a view to preventing conflict or its reoccurrence. The Court also promotes key principles in that regard, including peaceful coexistence, the maintenance of international peace and security, and the promotion of the rule of law.

Jordan is concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Darfur, as mentioned in the report, including violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law, and the persistent attacks on civilians and the staff of humanitarian organizations, as well as United Nations Blue Helmets. Jordan reiterates the importance of cooperation with the International Criminal Court, to ensure the implementation of the Court's mandate and the Council's resolutions.

As a matter of utmost importance, it must be underscored that the situation in Darfur cannot be resolved in the absence of a sustainable development agenda that will respond to the fundamental needs of the local communities and assist them in meeting their socioeconomic challenges, as well as a road map leading to the return of those that have been displaced.

To conclude, justice and development in Darfur are essential and must be achieved first in order to establish a lasting peace, which can be done only with the involvement of all stakeholders.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We have taken note of the twenty-first report of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), on the investigation of the situation in Darfur. We thank Ms. Bensouda for her comments on the 2009 report of the African Union High-Level Panel on Darfur (S/2009/599, annex I).

The military, political and humanitarian situations in Darfur remain difficult. The root cause of the violence and a rise in the number of internally displaced persons is the refusal of the armed opposition to participate in the Doha peace process or inter-tribal talks. We welcome the Government of the Sudan's active efforts to reconcile warring tribes. The escalation of inter-tribal clashes, driven by the competition for resources, is due in large part to the economic difficulties facing Darfur and the Sudan as a whole. That is why improving the situation will depend to a great extent on the timely implementation of the pledges made in 2013 in Doha concerning the allocation of billions of aid dollars to address the needs of the people of Darfur, the writing-off of foreign debt and the lifting of sanctions levied by the United States in circumvention of the Council. The resulting humanitarian problem also requires the normalization of the military and political situation in the region.

We call for swift action on the part of the Darfur rebels to join in the peace process, based on the Security Council-approved Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. In that context, it is high time for the Security Council to consider levying targeted sanctions against the leaders of the so-called intractable Darfur rebels, who unfortunately enjoy support from the outside.

The ongoing violence in Darfur has led to the suffering of civilians and increased numbers of internally displaced persons, which is of course a cause for concern. We therefore call on the Court to objectively and impartially assess the situation. The ability of the ICC to impartially investigate the actions of all parties to the conflict is of key importance to strengthening the Court's credibility. We also call on the Court to act with a view to striking a balance between serving justice and achieving lasting peace and stability.

The talks are all of equal importance. The search for solutions requires a comprehensive and balanced approach. We take note of the Prosecutor's observations regarding States' cooperation with the International Criminal Court in the framework of the Darfur dossier. The situation again demonstrates the importance of States' support in ensuring the Court's successful functioning.

Regarding the topic raised by the Prosecutor — the Sudan's participation in the African Union (AU) Summit in Johannesburg — we recall that, in addition to the obligation to cooperate with the ICC, the Statute states that parties to the Statute are bound by obligations arising from international legal norms governing the immunity of high-level officials, particularly Heads of States, of States that, like the Sudan, are not party to the Rome Statute. In that regard, we are sympathetic to the concerns raised with increasing frequency about a number of aspects of the Court's activities regarding certain African States, as well as the African Union as a whole.

Regarding the appeals made through so-called follow-up actions on the part of the Council in the referral of cases to the International Criminal Court, our position has been expressed many times and is well known. The case of the alleged massive sexual violence in Thabit has been closed. As is well known, it began through rumours launched by Radio Dabanga against Khartoum that were consequently spread by certain human rights activists, based on interviews that were usually carried out by telephone.

We recommend that colleagues look into the results of the Government of the Sudan's independent and detailed investigation, which has convincingly refuted those unbridled speculations. The Thabit affair represents an information war. It was an attempt by certain players to scale up pressure on the Sudan. It is very unfortunate that some forces are attempting to involve the Council, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the ICC in such a risky business.

Mr. Gombo (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I too would like to thank Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, for her briefing. The situation in Darfur remains of concern, despite regional and international efforts to end the war through dialogue and national reconciliation.

Fighting between Government forces and the many armed groups continues, particularly in northern Darfur and Jebel Marra, although its intensity and frequency have somewhat decreased. That is further compounded by sporadic, yet deadly, clashes between the various tribes in eastern, southern and northern Darfur. Civilians caught between multiple fire-fights find themselves in extremely difficult security and humanitarian situations. Civilian victims number in the hundreds, including over 121,000 persons who have been internally displaced since December's briefing (see S/PV.7337). We strongly condemn that situation and all forms of violence perpetrated against civilians, particularly women and children. Attacks targeting the peacekeepers of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and humanitarian workers are inadmissible. The perpetrators of such attacks must be identified and brought to justice.

In the context of war, insecurity and instability, it would be difficult, even impossible, to create conditions conducive to genuine justice in order to prosecute the alleged perpetrators of the crimes committed in Darfur. That is why we reiterate the appeal made by the African Union to work concurrently on the dual tracks of peace and justice. That is the only way to give justice a chance to succeed on all fronts. It is also why it is necessary to support and promote the inter-Sudanese dialogue process taking place under the auspices of the African Union High-Level Panel on Darfur, towards a lasting political solution to the crisis in Darfur.

Furthermore, we welcome the liberation in early April of the civil society members who had been imprisoned. We launch a heartfelt appeal to all Sudanese stakeholders to prioritize dialogue and national reconciliation. Chad reiterates that there is no military solution to the crisis in Darfur. The international community must make every effort to ensure that the armed movements and the Government return to the negotiating table on the basis of national reconciliation and the integration of justice into the peace process in order to combat impunity.

Ms. Mulvein (United Kingdom): I would like to thank Prosecutor Bensouda for her report and for her briefing today.

The situation in Darfur remains a serious concern with an increase in violence and insecurity over the reporting period. The number of people affected by the conflict continues to grow with 2 million now displaced in the long term and more than twice that number in need of humanitarian assistance. This, combined with reported attacks on humanitarian workers and peacekeepers, reinforces the need for all sides to reach a political solution and allow immediate unfettered humanitarian access.

It also, as the Council has discussed today in the context of the mandate renewal of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), emphasizes the need for a strong international response. The Prosecutor's report highlights many of the issues. The United Kingdom is especially troubled by the increase in the level of violent deaths by civilians and the significant increase in reported aerial bombardments. As the report also highlights, the legal immunity of the Government of the Sudan's rapid support forces is a particular concern.

The report also picks up on ongoing sexual and gender-based violence. It is particularly disappointing that despite ongoing calls to allow UNAMID unfettered access to investigate the reported mass rape at Thabit, this still has not happened. The United Kingdom continues to call on all parties to refrain from violence

against civilians and to end the abuses and violations of both human rights and international humanitarian law. We welcome the recommendations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Violence against Women and the United Nations independent expert for the human rights situation in the Sudan that those responsible for human rights violations and abuses should be brought to account.

Against this backdrop, we regret that the Prosecutor is unable to carry out the full investigation due to lack of cooperation by the Government of the Sudan and that the tenth anniversary of Darfur being referred to the Prosecutor has passed and no arrests have been made. This reflects the fact that the Government of the Sudan has persistently failed to meet its obligations under resolution 1593 (2005). In doing so, it obstructs the pursuit of justice for the victims of crimes carried out in Darfur. We renew our call on the Government of the Sudan to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The United Kingdom is also disappointed that President Al-Bashir continues to travel with impunity with specific regard to his travel to the African Union summit in June. As the ICC's decision makes clear and as noted in the report of the Prosecutor, there is no ambiguity or uncertainty with respect to the obligation of States parties to the Rome Statute to arrest and surrender him to the Court. We were also disappointed that Abdel Rahim Hussein and Ahmed Haroun accompanied President Al-Bashir on trips overseas during the reporting period, and we note the 26 June decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber finding non-compliance by the Republic of the Sudan through failure to arrest Abdel Rahim Hussein.

The United Kingdom strongly supports the ICC as a Court working to deliver justice to victims, many of them African, of appalling crimes by holding perpetrators to account and putting an end to impunity. African States played a central role in the creation of the Court. African support and expertise continue to be vital to enable the Court to deliver its mandate of delivering justice for victims and tackling impunity. We call on all ICC States parties to meet their obligations under the Rome Statute and on the Government of the Sudan to meet its obligations under resolution 1593 (2005). We call on the Council to take effective follow-up action in relation to non-cooperation with the Court. Having referred the situation in Darfur to the Court, we must support it in fulfilling that mandate.

Mr. Adamu (Nigeria): I thank Ms. Fatou Bensouda for underlining the salient dimensions of the judicial activities undertaken by her Office. We are encouraged by its continued monitoring and reporting on trends that could potentially constitute crimes under the Rome Statute. Such preventive initiatives in our view will serve as deterrents against impunity and send a clear message that violators will be held accountable for their actions.

Nigeria is concerned about the increased violence and insecurity in Darfur, which has contributed significantly to the increase in the number of internally displaced persons in that part of the country. It is disconcerting that since the Prosecutor's last report (see S/PV.7337) in December 2014, there have been 500 incidents of alleged crimes resulting in approximately 1,200 violent deaths. We believe that this is attributable to the escalation of the armed conflict. We expect that the deployment of troops by the Government of the Sudan to act as a buffer between the southern Rizeigat and Ma'alia tribes in Darfur will ease tensions between the two communities. Mediation efforts should however be intensified and must seek to address the root causes of the conflict for sustainable peace.

While preferring suggestions designed to achieve lasting peace in Darfur, Nigeria condemns the sexual crimes against women, attacks against the peacekeepers of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the alleged abductions of humanitarian aid workers. We call on armed actors to refrain from all acts of violence against civilians and to cease all forms of violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law. In the same vein, we believe that safe and unhindered access must be granted to humanitarian agencies and personnel to facilitate the timely delivery of assistance to those in need.

On recent judicial activities, we see merit in an engagement between the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the African Union. We believe that robust dialogue could bridge understanding gaps between their differing perspectives. In this connection, it is our view that the President of the Assembly of States parties to the ICC could play a key role in facilitating understanding between the ICC and the African Union.

In closing, we reiterate our call on the parties to the conflict in Darfur to resolve their differences in the most peaceful manner in order to preserve the lives of innocent civilians. Experience shows that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Darfur. A return

to normalcy and a resumption of economic activities will be in the interest of the people, for development can only thrive where peace prevails.

Mr. Méndez Graterol (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): We wish to thank the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Ms. Fatou Bensouda, for the presentation of the twenty-first report on the investigation on the situation in the Sudan, in accordance with resolution 1593 (2005), and for the work carried out by that judicial body in the fight against impunity and the promotion of justice for the victims of the crimes established in article 5 of the Rome Statute.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as a State party to the International Criminal Court since its establishment in 2002, defends the strengthening of its institutions and the effectiveness of its operations. We therefore encourage the universalization of the Court in order to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels. In this regard, cooperation is an essential aspect in achieving the Court's objectives. We call for the consolidation of the dialogue between the Court and the African Union.

Venezuela supports the efforts of the Prosecutor to ensure that justice and accountability are respected and that the authorities can promote the establishment of a comprehensive and effective justice system. For our country, the ongoing efforts of a number of actors to politicize the work of the International Criminal Court are of great concern. They have affected the principles that govern the Court, which include autonomy, independence, impartiality, transparency and objectivity. Failure to comply with these principles weakens the institutional framework of the Court when justice is applied selectively, to the detriment of the spirit and purpose of the Rome Statute.

The issuance of the warrant of arrest by the International Criminal Court against President Omar Al-Bashir violates customary international law, which guarantees jurisdictional immunity to Heads of State in the exercise of their functions. This situation should be addressed in accordance with the national laws of the Republic of the Sudan. In that regard, Venezuela shares the position of the African Union, as stated by the representatives of Angola, Chad and Nigeria at this meeting.

In addition, with regard to the issue under discussion, we cannot overestate the negative impact of the execution of this illegitimate measure on the Sudanese peace process. In that regard, the African Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States and the Non-Aligned Movement, among others, have expressed their profound concern with regard to the arrest warrant, which they believe seriously undermines ongoing efforts to facilitate a timely solution of the conflict in Darfur and to promote a lasting peace and reconciliation in the Sudan, and could give rise to greater destabilization and have long-term and comprehensive consequences for the country and the region.

Nevertheless, in an effort to achieve greater harmony among opposing positions, we urge the competent regional authorities to immediately arrest those individuals who do not enjoy jurisdictional immunity as Heads of State. We also encourage the Office of the Prosecutor to pursue its investigations into those responsible for alleged crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide whose arrest warrants have been issued by the International Criminal Court in the case in question and referred by the Security Council through resolution 1593 (2005). That would promote dialogue in the search for negotiated political solutions to the conflict in favour of peace, development and justice in that country.

We note that the African Union fulfils a fundamental role as a facilitator of political peace processes in the continent, in particular in the Sudan. We believe that cooperation between the Security Council, the International Criminal Court and the regional and subregional organizations of Africa must be founded on mutual respect and strict adherence to international law.

My country is aware that the Sudanese political situation is complex and that significant challenges remain on the ground. Nevertheless, we reaffirm our full support for a negotiated solution to the situation in Darfur, through an inclusive and direct political dialogue among the parties to the conflict, without preconditions, that would lead to lasting stability in the country. In that regard, we believe that the development of an environment conducive to sincere, honest and genuine dialogue is essential. We therefore reiterate our call for an immediate end to hostilities. To that end, we believe that the implementation of the provisions of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, contained in the Constitution of the Sudan, must be accelerated because it provides a framework that could serve as a

basis for negotiations among the parties to the conflict, complemented by a national dialogue to be convened by the Government.

We call on the parties to immediately cease hostilities. In that regard, we support the mediation efforts of the international community — particularly the countries of the region and regional organizations, such as the African Union, whose role, through the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on Sudan and South Sudan, led by President Thabo Mbeki, as well as the Joint Chief Mediator — as fundamental steps that will help end the onoing conflict in that brotherly African country.

Finally, Venezuela reaffirms that the achievement of peace and stability in Sudan require cooperation between all stakeholders, including the African Union and subregional organizations, bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

I thank Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, for presenting the twenty-first report to the Council, pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 1593 (2005), outlining the judicial and prosecutorial activities of the Court.

We are deeply concerned at the security situation in Darfur, as reflected by the escalation in fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the armed groups, the intercommunal conflicts and incidents of banditry and criminality. The proliferation of small arms has further contributed to the destabilization of the region. The humanitarian situation in Darfur, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, is also a matter of concern. The escalation in conflict has resulted in an increase of 130,000 new internally displaced persons, especially in the Jebel Marra area. We call on the parties to immediately cease all attacks on civilians and humanitarian and peacekeeping personnel. We wish to remind all parties to the conflict of their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law. We also believe that the perpetrators of such crimes must be held accountable.

We are also concerned that the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) continues to face restrictions on movement, denials of access and attacks against its personnel. We call on the Government of the Sudan to expeditiously investigate and deal with the numerous reported status-of-forces violations. In light of those challenges, we commend UNAMID for its steadfastness and resoluteness in striving to achieve its strategic objectives. It is in recognition of UNAMID's important role in and contribution to the Darfur peace process that Malaysia supported the adoption of resolution 2228 (2015), renewing UNAMID's mandate for a further year.

We also commend the convening of the Joint Working Group to deliberate on UNAMID's exit strategy. We are supportive of basing UNAMID's phased and gradual exit against a set of benchmarks, as laid out in annex 1 of the Secretary-General's report of 15 April 2014 (S/2014/279).

We are convinced that there is no military solution to the conflict in Darfur. We strongly condemn any action aimed at the forced overthrow of the Government of the Sudan. In that regard, we urge the parties to the conflict to continue to be guided by the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur framework. We encourage the Government of the Sudan to relaunch direct negotiations with the parties to the conflict, and further encourage the parties to return to the negotiating table and to engage constructively. As regards the inter-communal and inter-tribal conflicts, we encourage the Government of the Sudan to look into and effectively address the root causes of the disputes.

We acknowledge and highly commend the efforts of the Government of Chad in successfully mediating the signing of a peace agreement between the Government of the Sudan with a breakaway faction of the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi, in a parallel initiative to the Doha Document and the efforts of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on Sudan and South Sudan. We believe that efforts such as those will contribute significantly to the peace process in Darfur.

Malaysia is of the view that the efforts of the Government of the Sudan to demonstrate compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and its commitment to holding those responsible for violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law accountable will contribute positively towards building trust and confidence.

I now resume my function as president of the Council.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Hassan (Sudan): Before begining my prepared statement, I would first like to draw the attention of the Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda to her statement on the departure of my President from South Africa. Her statement was nonsensical and preposterous. His Excellency only left South Africa after he had completed his pre-planned schedule, and not for the reason she mentioned. Once again, I would like to draw the attention of the Prosecutor to the fact that she is talking about the elected President of a State, which constitutes an attack on the authority of the Sudan under the guise of international legitimacy. We reject this attack. It underlines the fact that such allegations by the Office of the Prosecutor indicate that it has become an open enemy of the Sudan and the people of the Sudan. Those statements, which runn counter to all political and moral decorum, reveal the motives behind the actions of the Office of the Prosecutor. The people of Darfur on whose behalf the Prosecutor speaks are those who elected His Excellency President Omar Al-Bashir. The Secretary-General's report on Darfur (S/2015/378) clearly states that when elections were held in the five states of Darfur, no security incident was recorded. The ICC Prosecutor has spoken falsely on behalf of Darfurians.

I shall now return to my prepared statement. I would like to state for the record that our participation here today in no way indicates that we wish to add any substance to the ICC's actions or to deal with the Court at all directly or indirectly. That is because the Sudan, as the Council knows, is not a party to the Rome Statute and is therefore not at all concerned with the Court's proceedings. In addition to the fact that the Court has no competence in the Sudan, we have our own independent, impartial and objective judiciary, with a renowned historic heritage, that is able to dispense justice. We are delivering this statement to the Security Council under the umbrella of the United Nations. We must correct significant misleading and erroneous information that inaccurately reflects the situation in Darfur, as well as the statements and reports made by United Nations bodies, including the latest one just mentioned.

The reports presented before the Council, as well as the Prosecutor's prejudicial briefing, are part and parcel of the Court's blatant politicization. In its briefings, the Office of the Prosecutor has presented completely incorrect information from unknown sources. What is worse, the Prosecutor presents details against the Government of the Sudan by padding her briefings with many embellishmens concerning the humanitarian situation, so-called violations of human rights and other such designations that properly belong to the mandates of other United Nations bodies. In one instance, her briefing quoted negative aspects selectively culled from the Secretary-General's reports on Darfur. On other occasions, her briefings have cited negative paragraphs with unverifiable information, such as reports of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), as well as information derived from the mass media and non-governmental organizations.

This also raises the question of whether it is possible for the Office of the Prosecutor to assume competencies that properly pertain to other bodies of the Organization. Its approach politicized the situation and fabricated justifications in order to refer the case of Darfur to the ICC. But that referral was based on erroneous premises in the first place. An International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur, established pursuant to resolution 1564 (2004), conducted investigations and presented reports that refuted the charge of genocide in Darfur or any acts mentioned by the Prosecutor. Nevertheless, the Security Council referred the case to the ICC based on that lopsided, self-contradictory report pursuant to resolution 1593 (2005). This in itself represents a blatant contradiction, because the report contains a paragraph that excludes States not party to the Rome Statute from accountability under such a resolution. The same report was cited in the context of Darfur. What kind of justice is based on exclusion and politicization? In the light of the characterization of the Darfur conflict as a threat to international peace and security, pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, that remains an inappropriate, invalid approach.

The Council was fully aware that the roots of conflict in Darfur were not purely political grievances; they concerned development and certain dimensions exacerbated by natural causes, such as drought and desertification, which affected most of the African coast. Those factors made it necessary for the State to assume its constitutional responsibilities to extend its authority, security and law. The Government of the Sudan has been willing and able to seek full justice, particularly with regard to any crimes that have taken place in Darfur, which is why the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur contains a lengthy chapter on justice, accountability, settlement and reconciliation. The Sudan is also signatory to a convention enshrining those principles, so I wonder why the Prosecutor talks

about such matters as if we had no measures related to them.

As we reported to the Council in November 2014 (see S/PV.7337), the Sudan appointed a Prosecutor General for Darfur Crimes. Since the Doha Document has been approved as an official document of the Council, I refer to paragraph 295, which stipulates that

> "immunities enjoyed by persons by virtue of their official status or functions shall not obstruct the speedy dispensation of justice nor shall they prevent the combating of impunity".

The Document paves the way for justice — real justice and not the false justice we are hearing about. The Document contains clear commitments to justice and reconciliation as the two basic elements for achieving peace in Darfur.

Any attempt to detract from the status of the Sudanese judiciary is only a political ploy to invent reasons or justifications to target the Sudan through the ICC. For example, the sentences issued by the Darfur Court have in some cases included capital punishment; indeed, the special Darfur Court, established by virtue of the Doha Document, has issued capital punishment sentences in selected cases. Therefore, in the light of the Document's clear references to immunities, nobody, including a Prosecutor, can impugn or attack the professionalism, independence and competence of the Sudanese judiciary and its ability to achieve justice in accordance with our national laws, international criminal law and humanitarian law. In this connection, I reiterate our previous statements to the effect that justice should be achieved through the Sudanese judiciary and that the ICC has no role or competence unless the national judiciary is unwilling or unable to achieve justice. Therefore, there is no need to apply any ICC mandate.

We would therefore like to talk about the unsound approach espoused by the Office of the Prosecutor in trying to bypass the role of the national African judiciary organs in dealing with African cases. This unsound approach has caused Africans to raise their voices to reject the ICC approach and the frequent decisions the ICC has taken against Africans, and to call for African cases to be kept within the remit of the African judiciary. I would like to refer to the resolutions adopted by Addis Ababa and Johannesburg.

On this occasion, it is noteworthy that the report of the Prosecutor has primarily criticized the States visited by the President of the Republic. We would like to state that the attempts of the Prosecutor's Office to criticize those States constitute brazen interference in their sovereignty and a blatant challenge to the will of major regional organizations, which reject the proceedings of the ICC on Darfur. Statements have been issued by the African Union, at the level of Heads of State or Government, and at the ministerial level that reject the proceedings of the ICC on Darfur. On more than one occasion, such statements — including the resolutions adopted by the League of Arab States and the Non-Aligned Movement — have called for that dossier to be closed once and for all, as it is based on exclusively political considerations. Those organizations represent two-thirds of the international community. Other credible organizations whose decisions carry weight understand that the ICC has become a device to target African leaders and not others.

We would like to state here before the Council that all States Members of the Organization, all peace-loving States, be they States parties to the Rome Statute or not, should continue to welcome and receive His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Sudan. It is enough for him that history will record that he managed to put an end to one of the longest conflicts in Africa — that with South Sudan — by signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which guaranteed self-determination to the State of South Sudan. History will also show that the Sudan was the first to recognize that a leader who makes such sacrifices for peace deserves to be received, welcomed and venerated, and not attacked on all sides. All international forums should receive him, as is his due, and welcome him. Any blame or criticism leveled by the Office of the Prosecutor against the States receiving the President is biaised and null and void. The confusion fostered by the Office of the Prosecutor since December 2014 proves that anything built on invalid premises will remain invalid.

The ambiguous connection between the ICC and the Security Council remains an unresolved question. Efforts to establish a relationship between a judicial entity and a political entity are beset by misgivings, obstacles and legal challenges with regard to the independence of the judiciary and the importance of its distancing itself from the influence of political authorities. That is exacerbated by the absence of a

framework governing the relationship between the two organs and the referrals from the Council to the Court.

With regard to the statements made by the representatives of France, the United Kingdom and the United States to the efect that the situation in Darfur has deteriorated since 2014, I wonder, is the Darfur they are talking about the Darfur we know, or another Darfur, outside the Sudan? Eighty per cent of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur has been implemented, as mentioned by Mr. Al-Tijani Al-Sisi, who is a citizen of Darfur. Could this be another of the ploys that continue to arise in the Council to bring pressure to bear on the citizens of Darfur? This should not happen.

As for the United States, which calls on us to abide by the decisions of the ICC, I remind the representative of that country of the statement made by Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State and former representative of the United States in the Council, on page 188 of her book, in which she states that President Bush objected strongly to the ICC for a number of reasons, including the fact that the Prosecutor was unable to hold any Government responsible. For the United States, it was a matter of sovereignty and the Court's authority was being exaggerated. as if it were a national Government. These are the words of one of the highest officials of the United States, and now they are calling on us to abide by the decisions of the ICC.

Sovereignty is sovereignty. We too are a sovereign State, and we are not party to the Rome Statute and will not be a party to it. Therefore, we do not abide by its proceedings or rulings.

With respect to the absence of frameworks governing the relationship between the two organs in terms of referrals from the Council to the Court and the contradiction between the obligations emanating from international treaties and instruments, regional and international conventions and the Rome Statute, I recall the provisions of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties with regard to the immunities of Heads of State or Government and that a State not party to a convention is not concerned with it. The Sudan, as I stated, is not a party to the Rome Statute and consequently need not abide by its rulings.

I further recall the concerns and reservations that have been raised concerning the competencies of the Prosecutor since 1998. Entire books have been published on the limitless authority of the Prosecutor. That is what we are suffering from now. The stance taken by States since that time has been that the relationship between the Court and the Council, given the competencies conferred by the Rome Statute on the Prosecutor, would lead the Court into politicization and confusion, since it applies its competencies only to African countries. This has led to a loss of confidence in its integrity, as embodied in the resolutions of major regional organizations, foremost among which is the African Union.

In conclusion, I appeal to the Council to not consider the false information garnered from unknown sources that has been presented by the Prosecutor. Council members should instead consider the important fact, noted by a number of States, that the current priorities in Darfur are reconstruction, recovery and development. Many people have returned to their lands and are seeking to go about their normal daily activities. They are not waiting for the reports of the Prosecutor or anyone else, but are trying to achieve resolution and reconciliation. They are looking to the Security Council, which is not playing its role, to put pressure on the rebel groups that reject the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. I have a question for the Prosecutor. Where are those rebel movements in her report? She makes no mention of the matter. Why?

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7479

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7479th meeting
Tuesday, 30 June 2015, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Ibrahim	(Malaysia)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mrs. Alingue
	Chile	Mr. Olguín Cigarroa
	China	Mr. Shen Bo
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Jordan	Mr. Omaish
	Lithuania	Mr. Baublys
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. Fernández-Arias Minuesa
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)

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15-20255 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I will now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Malaysia.

In convening today's wrap-up session, Malaysia is seeking to introduce some new elements that could inject added value into our exchanges — namely, reflections on the Council's work over a slightly longer time frame, both looking back and looking ahead. That said, I intend first to highlight certain key aspects of Malaysia's presidency of the Council this month.

During its presidency, Malaysia has sought to focus on three key issues: peacekeeping, peacebuilding and children and armed conflict. In pursuing these priorities, Malaysia is grateful for the strong and constructive support and cooperation extended by all Council members throughout the month.

With regard to peacekeeping and peacebuilding, the principal idea was to initiate preliminary discussions by the Council, taking into account its expected role in following up on the ongoing review processes of peace operations, the peacebuilding architecture and resolution 1325 (2000).

On children and armed conflict, taking into account the alarming upward trend in the employment of abduction as a tactic in violent conflicts, especially by terrorist groups and their affiliates, Malaysia has sought to further strengthen international protection norms for children in armed conflict, in particular by including abduction as an additional trigger for listing in the Secretary-General's annual reports on children and armed conflict. As Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, we are grateful for the overwhelming support demonstrated by Council members and United Nations Member States during the open debate held on 18 June (see S/PV.7466) and for resolution 2225 (2015).

By way of statistics, the Council has held a total of 26 meetings, out of which 22 were public. Additionally, three Arria Formula meetings have been held in June concerning the situations in Darfur, Syria and — just this morning — on climate change and its implications for international peace and security, reflecting, in our view, healthy use of other meeting formats by Council members. With regard to outcomes in June, the Council has adopted a total of 22 products, including 6 resolutions and 2 presidential statements, and issued 15 press statements. It is disconcerting that a large number of the press statements have been in relation to terrorist attacks.

Today marks six months since Malaysia joined the Council. In our view, the Council's work in 2015 has thus far been largely positive. For example, a number of important norm-setting initiatives on the protection of civilians in armed conflict — including journalists, women, girls and children — were adopted between January and June. However, over the same period the Council has also seen a deterioration in a number of situations, most notably in Burundi, the Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen. At the same time, the Council has also proven its dynamism in rising to new challenges, as demonstrated by its engagement on the issue of migrants at sea, both in the Mediterranean and in South-East Asian waters.

As stated earlier, the challenge to international peace and security posed by the twin scourges of terrorism and violent extremism has continued to loom large on the Council's agenda. Malaysia believes that, over the past six months, the Council has demonstrated a strengthened resolve to tackle and address these scourges, and particularly the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, including through follow-up decisions and initiatives. In that connection, we welcome the initiative of Lithuania and Spain to organize the extraordinary meeting of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), scheduled to be held in Madrid next month.

Just last Friday, the United Nations commemorated its seventieth anniversary. Since its inception, the United Nations and the Security Council have been at the forefront in maintaining international order, peace and stability. There have been numerous successes in that regard. However, there also remain a number of seemingly intractable challenges that continue to impinge on the credibility of the Council and the United Nations as a whole.

The top of that list must include Palestine, which has been in conflict and crisis for almost as long as the United Nations has been in existence. On this, we

believe, the Council has been ineffective for far too long. We reiterate that it is neither tenable nor acceptable for Palestine to remain in the status quo. The systematic decimation and subjugation of an entire people are an affront to everything which the United Nations and the Council stand for. It is time for all parties to recommit to peaceful negotiations, including on final status issues, and for the Council to step up to its responsibility in facilitating a peaceful political resolution to the long-standing conflict.

Against the backdrop of raging conflicts in the Middle East, including in Syria, Yemen and, to a lesser extent, Iraq, as well as the conflicts in Africa, particularly in Mali and Libya — exacerbated by the activities of groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Al-Nusra Front, Boko Haram and Al-Qaida, among others — Malaysia believes that there is an increasing need for the Council to take a more strategic approach, including by looking at the future implications of such conflicts at the regional and global levels. Without being prescriptive, the following issues lie ahead, on which, in our view, the Council should have initial conversations or discussion.

First are the implications for regional and subregional security and stability, for example in the Middle East, in view of the significant stresses on the countries of the region forced to cope with refugees and displaced persons fleeing the conflict in Syria. Similarly, the possible future implications of the various conflicts in Africa include the security implications of massive movements of those fleeing such conflicts, including through North Africa. While noting that the United Nations does have regional-level conflict-prevention capacities — for example, through the United Nations Office for West Africa and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia — no comparable capacity exists for the Middle East, which could arguably benefit from such a mechanism.

As highlighted during the recent meeting of the Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, the possibility of election-related violence flaring up and rapidly deteriorating into possible threats to international peace and security must also be on our radar, as must the need to work with the General Assembly in moving forward on the issue of selecting the next Secretary-General. In that regard, we note the proposals that have been put forward on this issue, and look forward to discussing them further with Council members and interested partners and stakeholders.

In concluding, Malaysia reaffirms its support for meetings such as this, which provide the necessary space for continuing a regular collective assessment of the Council's performance, as well as the opportunity for us to cast an eye on the challenges and opportunities that lie on the horizon in our collective endeavour of maintaining international peace and security.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the other members of the Council.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): Let me begin by thanking you, Sir, and your team for your hard work this month, and for your invitation to hold this wrap-up session, which is a very welcome initiative. As your statistics made clear, it has been a productive month in terms of products, but it has also been a challenging one when we consider the increased threats to peace and security around the world.

I look forward in particular to hearing the reflections of other recently elected members of the Council, but as I am personally a new arrival, I thought that I would take this opportunity to offer my thoughts on the work of the Council on the basis of my first two months here. I want to share my impressions on three issues: working methods, the importance of Council unity, and the challenges ahead.

On working methods, in my first couple of months here I have been struck by how formal our interactions can be, whatever the format, including in Arria Formula meetings, in so-called informal consultations and even in so-called informal interative dialogues. In all these forums, I want to ask everyone what we can do to be more responsive and more interactive with each other and with those briefing us.

This month, for instance, we met a very broad range of leaders, activists and specialists working in Somalia, Syria, the Sudan. We welcomed the Force Commanders to the Council. All of these individuals bring insights that are invaluable for our work. But the formality of our interactions with them can sometimes limit our ability to draw effectively on their experience.

And I think particularly when we are meeting in private, we need to break away from the predictable pattern of reading prepared statements out loud, and

instead, properly engage with each other and briefers. Maybe even — shock horror — on a first-name basis that reflects our familiar and daily interactions. We should ask questions; we should interject. A dialogue should be an exchange, not a broadcast of views. If we do all agree on a point, then why does everyone need to say it? Why do not we just say that we agree with someone else and move on? Otherwise we end up reading out talking points that have already been made by other people. I know that others around the Council, and beyond, share this view, and both the peace operations review and the Office of Internal Oversight Services recommend that we have more open and honest conversations. So to do so, I believe we need to begin by looking again at our working methods and making them more engaging and interactive.

For my second reflection, I have been struck by how the Council can make real progress when there is unity. And we have seen such unity on counter-terrorism and on the fight against Ebola. We are also seeing it on some of the hardest issues we face, such as Yemen and Libya. But as events in Ukraine and Syria have demonstrated, when the Council is divided, our response falters and people suffer. As we look ahead to the next six months, we need to redouble our efforts to find common cause on those issues too.

And there are areas where we can agree, even on the most divisive issues like Syria. Through the Geneva communiqué (S/2012/523, annex) we were able to agree that a transitional governing body is needed — one that meets the aspirations of the Syrian people. A strong, stable, inclusive Government in Syria is the only way to counter the threat posed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant; the Al-Assad regime has neither the legitimacy nor the ability to do so. And the moderate opposition cannot do so alone. So whatever our national starting point in that conflict, we must all come together to help Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura in his efforts to bring about a political settlement, which is the only way to find an end to that awful conflict. So if we can make an extra effort to seek out common ground, if we can adopt some slightly more engaging working practices, maybe we will have a little bit more success in addressing the challenges ahead.

And that is my final reflection. It is on the scale of the challenges which the Council and the United Nations, as a whole, will face in the coming months. The President set out a long list — Middle East, migration, conflicts in Africa — and one could add climate change, conflict prevention, achieving the sustainable development goals. It is clear that we have a lot to do. But in addition to all of those, I want to focus on two further issues of particular importance to the United Kingdom: the selection of the next Secretary-General and the review of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.

As I announced on my first day in April, the United Kingdom wants to see a more transparent, structured and inclusive selection process for the next Secretary-General. That means encouraging the broadest selection of credible candidates — men and particularly women — and setting a clear timeline for appointment. And it is the Council that must take the lead in this process, as it is the Council that has been mandated in the Charter of the United Nations to make the recommendation to the General Assembly.

I think we need to accelerate our work on that, but also think about how we can broaden out and give all States Members of the United Nations and civil society an opportunity to assess the candidates' credentials. If all qualifications are equal, the United Kingdom believes that it is high time for a woman to lead the United Nations. Twenty years on from the Beijing Declaration, it is time for the United Nations to show leadership and embody the practices it encourages all of its Members to follow.

Which brings me also to women, peace and security. There has been too little implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in the 15 years since it was adopted. The United Kingdom sees the high-level review on women, peace and security in October as a chance to begin a new phase for this agenda; one focused on implementation and results for women affected by conflict. We want to see women at peace talks and real protection for the most vulnerable. Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi will be leading the Council when we consider the issue in October, and I look forward to working closely with him and the Spanish mission, and with all Council members, to further the agenda.

Finally, let me close by welcoming that the Council is holding this meeting in public. It is a pity that it is the first wrap-up meeting since the French presidency in March. These open sessions are important. And like the working practices I have described, they can bring greater transparency and greater engagement into our discussions and our decisions.

Mr. Baublys (Lithuania): I agree with my colleague. But I will add to his words. I wish to express, first of all, my delegation's appreciation to you personally, Mr. President, and to the Malaysian team for your efficient conduct of the Council presidency during the month. My delegation appreciates the diligent manner in which the presidency has acted in reacting to emergencies and efficiently conducting consultations. We also thank the presidency for the very timely open debate on children and armed conflict (see S/PV.7466), and for shepherding the adoption of resolution 2225 (2015), focusing on the recruitment and abduction of children.

Looking back at the agenda of the Council in June, I wish to share some thoughts on the working methods and key developments in the Council's discharge of its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations. The Council has been consistently opening more doors. Hardly has there been a day in June when the Council has not met in public. Only a few of the briefings by the Secretariat were in consultations, while the majority were delivered in the Chamber.

We are happy to note and to encourage the progress made in the delivering of briefings by the Secretariat. Such briefings should not duplicate the contents of the reports of the Secretary-General. As the Council is always pressed for time in consultations, we expect briefers to be succinct and to focus on critical issues. I believe that during this month, the Council wrote a letter to the Secretariat in that regard.

Speaking of format, it was unfortunate that at the joint briefing of the three subsidiary bodies dealing with counter-terrorism on 16 June (see S/PV.7463), the Council deviated from its existing practice, as non-Council members were not granted the right to participate in the discussions pursuant to rule 37. Such meetings provide a rare opportunity for the broader membership to share ideas and concerns with the Council regarding the global threats of terrorism and non-proliferation and ways to address them in working together with the subsidiary bodies.

We are also concerned that, due to the protracted process of the selection of a new Ombudsperson to the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, a gap may occur between the terms of the incumbent and the new Ombudsperson. Such a scenario would be not only contrary to the Council's decisions, but would also undermine the credibility of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime. We expect the Secretariat to take all necessary steps to ensure a smooth and orderly transition beyond 13 July, including the further extension of Ms. Prost's contract, if necessary.

This month the Council held a very useful briefing with United Nations Force Commanders (see S/PV.7464). I thank Malaysia for organizing that. Further efforts should be made to allow Force Commanders to engage more frequently in such interactive dialogue, while Council members should focus on questions rather than on statements, because on that particular occasion this month, 70 per cent of the time was taken up by Council members, while we listened to the briefers only 30 per cent of the time. In the months ahead we look forward to further discussions on the review of peacekeeping operations.

I wish also to commend the work of the Security Council Affairs Division (SCAD) for the prompt, professional and high quality service that it has provided to Council members consistently, against the background of jam-packed and tight monthly programmes of work. The monthly statistics on Security Council activities hardly capture the full scope of the work. Numerous interactive dialogue and Arria Formula meetings — there was mention of three such meetings this month — and many more substantive other matters compete with consultations and briefings. May I suggest to SCAD that the monthly statistics as of now should reflect also the number of interactive dialogue meetings held and substantive other matters addressed in consultations.

Many situations on the ground call for consistent attention from the international community. I would like to focus on only three of those that were addressed by the Council this month: Burundi, Syria and Ukraine.

The Arria Formula meeting on barrel bombs once again reminded us about the plight of thousands of civilians in Syria under constant attack by their own Government without a glimmer of hope in sight. While only a political solution of the crisis can occur in Syria, the cruel, senseless and indiscriminate bombing of civilians must stop immediately. The Council can and must act.

The situation in Burundi has preoccupied the Council in June. The first round of elections was held yesterday against the advice of the African Union, the East African Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the United Nations to *postpone them*. Some 10,000 Burundians voted over

the weekend with their feet as they fled the country. The Council has to remain vigilant in order prevent the worst happening in the country.

As we follow the steady erosion of the ceasefire regime by the actions of the regular Russian troops and illegal armed groups in the Donbas very closely and with great concern, we are worried that Russia wants to strip itself of responsibility, and that it is not facilitating the work of the Trilateral Contact Group and its working groups. In June, the Council held an urgency meeting (S/PV.7457) to react to major breaches of the Minsk agreements and resolution 2202 (2015) in Marinka and Krasnogorivka by the Russia-backed militants. We have to remain vigilant as militants have now amassed substantial troops, tanks and heavy weapons on the contact line. The situation there is very, very fragile.

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has consistently flagged, for a number of months in a row, reports of sophisticated heavy weaponry and fighters being supplied from the Russian Federation. We look forward to hearing Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonović address the Council on the human rights situation in occupied Crimea and certain parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. A genuine and inclusive political dialogue will remain impossible while the fighting continues and the terms of the truce are neglected. The Minsk agreements establish a clear sequence of necessary actions.

Finally, we welcome the letter sent to you, Mr. President, on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group, containing proposals related to the forthcoming appointment of the next Secretary-General. We believe that the group's call to initiate the discussions at the Council regarding those proposals is timely and should be taken in consideration.

Let me conclude by wishing best success to the ambassador of New Zealand for the country's upcoming presidency in the month of July. New Zealand may count on our support.

Mr. Lucas (Angola): At the outset, we would like to congratulate the delegation of Malaysia on its presidency of the Security Council during the month of June, and to thank it for convening this meeting. We must acknowledge the heavy work load in the Council's agenda, which sometimes puts unbearable pressure on small delegations, as is the case of our own. The situation does not pertain specifically to the Malaysian presidency. In fact, the heavy workload is a structural feature of Security Council work matters. Additionally, the Council is faced by increasing conflict situations around the world which are imposing very heavy work schedules upon it.

In terms of work for the month of June, African and the Middle East issues were central in the Security Council discussions and deliberations. On the African issues, we had the occasion to hold a dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Region, Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily. Mr. Bathily was candid in pointing out the very worrying situation in the region, and above all, the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army, its criminal deeds and the actions being taken for its demise. Mr. Bathily portayed the situation prevailing in the Central African Republic as a ray of hope with the completion of the Bangui Forum, which the country's broad political spectrum joined for the first time in many years. According to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the efforts of regional and international mediators have been instrumental in laying the ground for the gradual solution of the crisis, with a fundamental benchmark in the holding of elections in October 2015.

Still in the Central African region, the situation in Burundi has become a source of great concern to the Security Council. The holding of elections and its consequences in and around Burundi, as well as the stance adopted by regional stakeholders, has had a great impact in the proceedings of the Security Council during the month, with divisions surfacing among Council members on how to best to assist Burundi. However, great concerns remain, and the situation in Burundi will surely be at the centre of the Council's agenda for the next month, we hope, and not for the worst reasons.

Tangible progress seems to be occurring in Côte d'Ivoire and Mali. It is our expectation that both countries are on the right track towards lasting peace. Darfur remains very problematic, with little or no progress at all towards the establishment of a more peaceful environment. In Côte d'Ivoire, a volatile situation seems to be emerging, and the Security Council adopted resolution 2226 (2015) extending the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire mandate in preparation for the Mission's drawdown if, as we hope, the elections to be held in October are successful and the security situation has stabilized. The resolution transmits some sense of optimism that things in Côte

d'Ivoire might work out and the country may enter a phase of sustained peace and stability.

Concerning Mali, the Council took stock of recent developments with the signing of the peace agreement by all parties. The resolution adopted by the Council, extending the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, entrusts the Mission with fundamental tasks, inter alia, to deploy efforts to ensure the implementation of the peace agreement, the monitoring of the ceasefire and support for the return of the State authority to the north of the country. Now it is high time to mobilize all efforts in order to make things succeed in Mali.

Darfur was a most complex and divisive issue during the work of the month. The adoption of a resolution extending the mandate of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur was quite an achievement in such a divisive atmosphere, especially taking into account the exit strategy established for the Mission, as strongly requested by the Sudanese authorities and its linkage to a set of benchmarks to be met. Most likely, Darfur will remain a fixed item in the Council's work for some time despite the bold desire to end the mission in Darfur.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, chaired by Angola, held a meeting during the month of June related to the electorial processes in various African countries during the biennium. The meeting included the Special Representatives in West and Central Africa, who attended via video teleconference and briefed members on country-specific situations related to electoral processes and conflict situations that might arise from them due to the non-compliance of many political actors with the constitutional rules and the election results. Even so, they are considered by international observation teams to be just and fair. The Permanent Observer of the African Union, who also took part in the meeting, outlined the African Union position on the prevention of post-election-related conflicts, and noted the responsibility of every individual State to respect the African Union electoral framework and its constitutional order.

The Council gave extensive consideration to the situation in the Middle East, with particular emphasis on the conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Palestine. However, contrary to the moderate optimism that we assigned to certain evolving situations in Africa, no solutions to these conflicts are in sight. On the contrary, the Middle East conflicts seem to lead to an abyss. The growing terrorist threat in the region constitutes an extremely dangerous development, with evil contours that only a wise collective effort can contain and eradicate. The Security Council, if it acted in a united manner and really focused in the search for solutions to the most intractable conflicts, could represent this collective effort and embody the wisdom necessary to put an end to bloodshed and to the immense human suffering imposed upon the peoples of the region.

Some of the debates and briefings held during the month were important moment in the Council's work. The debate on children and armed conflict, and the briefings on peacekeeping and peacebuilding and on subsidiary bodies, were relevant contributions to deepening the thematic agenda of the Security Council. In particular, the debate on children and armed conflict (see S/PV.7466), a central theme of the Malaysian presidency, was a remarkable success with the adoption of resolution 2225 (2015), which added abduction to the framework of international law and as a criterion for listing parties in the annex of the Secretary-General's annual reports on children and armed conflict. In addition, the debate added a dimension to the Working Group's efforts to keep the issue at the forefront of the Security Council's agenda. The briefings on peacekeeping and peacebuilding were important contributions to the debate on the review of peacekeeping and on peacebuilding architecture to which we must add a review of resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security.

We have received a letter from the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) group regarding the selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General in 2016. As Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, we will try to work with Member States to find ways for the practical implementation of the proposals contained in the ACT letter.

Finally, we would like to refer to the semi-annual briefings by the Chairs of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and related committees at a time when the fight against terrorism has become a real international emergency. Conscious of the danger that terrorism represents, the issue enjoys the unanimous support of Council members, and the meeting reflected that reality (see S/PV.7463).

International criminal justice was part of the monthly agenda with debates on the International

Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court briefed the Council on the issue of Darfur and the case of President Al-Bashir of the Sudan. Also noted was the need to review Council referrals to the Court since the present system undermines the Tribunal's prestige and authority and creates unsolvable problems with stakeholders as distinct as the African Union and the International Criminal Court.

Mr. Fernández-Arias Minuesa (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Malaysian presidency on leadership this month. I would also like to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this wrap-up session, which we feel is very appropriate because it also allows us to summarize the Council's work during the first half of 2015. For the delegation of Spain, these six months have been the first of our two-year term in the Council — the fifth time we have participated as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. Spain highly appreciates the convening of such meetings for various reasons, which we would like to highlight.

First, as elected members of the Security Council, we understand that we must faithfully comply with our commitment to transparency and collaboration with all States Members of the Organization — a commitment we undertook during our campaign for election. Those elected to the Council, like all members in general, have a responsibility to exercise transparency. We reiterate our readiness to work with the entire membership and with civil society organizations with a view to ensuring that the Security Council continues to grow in efficiency and transparency.

Secondly, wrap-up sessions like today's can be very useful in improving the Council's working methods. Naturally, the effective work of the Council is not just a prior condition for providing an agile response to crises. Efficacy, efficiency and transparency are central elements in reforming the Council's working methods, which is of particular importance to my country. That is why Spain has been working with Angola, Chair of the Ad Hoc Group on Working Methods, to organize an open debate on working methods during the Spanish presidency of the Council in October.

I would like to relate my thoughts on our experience in the first six months on the Council this year, which also leads me to a few considerations on working methods.

One concern is the way in which the penholder system works. Undoubtedly, the quality of the work of the penholders is excellent and allows the Security Council's work to enjoy the necessary continuity and follow-up. However, from the point of view transparency, we believe that there could perhaps be room for improvement. This is an especially important point because unless the information we receive is timely and specific, it is not always possible to participate thoughtfully in the drafting of Council documents, be they resolutions, press releases or presidential statements. That being the case, it may be paradoxical that elected members, serving just two-year terms, have had less time in training than permanent members to participate in negotiations on various resolutions. That is why we feel it would be worthwhile to introduce a system of co-penholders in which one permanent member would always work with one elected non-permanent member.

We also feel that at times there is a lack of proportion between the time taken to explain positions and the time spent actually taking decisions. I know that time is at a premium, but I believe that we need to strike a better balance in the way we manage our time, because it may seem that the time given to debate a matter can extend for hours at the expense of the time we need to take operative decisions, which we often must take within minutes. On more than one occasion, we have experienced hours of discussion and just 10 minutes on the content of a press release.

I also believe that the lack of interaction between Council members and the rest of the membership of the Organization in the open debates is of particular concern. The open debates lose a lot of their meaning in that way because their purpose to provide an opportunity for genuine interaction between members and non-members of the Council on issues that are central to peace and security at any given point in time.

I would now like to mention two matters raised by previous speakers. The selection of the next Secretary-General is one of the most important aspects that we will be dealing with in upcoming months. Transparency must be a central principle, pursuant to Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations. I take this opportunity to encourage greater transparency and inclusiveness in the selection process for the next Secretary-General. Among possible measures is the establishment of a list of candidates and the presentation of candidacies in sufficient time to allow for interaction with Member

States. We also feel that it is essential to bear in mind the need for gender balance in the selection of the next Secretary-General.

Among other matters, we will soon need to consider a revision of resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, an issue on which Spain plans to organize a high-level open debate during its Council presidency. The review of resolution 1325 (2000) will be a major priority for us in our two-year term on the Council. I take this opportunity to call for high-level participation in that future debate, to be organized and held in October. I hope that it will add value commensurate with the important goals of that agenda, as the Ambassador of the United Kingdom said just now, while avoiding an excess of rhetoric and a lack of practical implementation.

As noted at the Arria Formula meeting that Spain organized at the end of May with the members of the three panels preparing reports on the peace and security reviews, the review of resolution 1325 (2000) should overlap with the reviews of the peacebuilding architecture and peacekeeping operations, and complement both. We need to take a detailed look at the report of the Independent Panel on Peace Operations. My delegation welcomes the inclusion of a separate section on women and peace and security in the report, where some of the contributions that Spain made in our national capacity would be included.

In conclusion, my delegation appreciates the close and frank cooperation that we have enjoyed with all the members of the Council throughout these months, as well as with the Secretariat and the wonderful interpretation team. We hope to further deepen that cooperation and help to improve the efficiency and transparency of the work of the Council in the year and a half that remains. Finally, I would wish all the best to New Zealand during their presidency of the Council next month.

Mr. Pressman (United States of America): I thank you, Mr. President, and the Malaysian delegation for your leadership this month.

Much of our time this month has been spent addressing security challenges in Africa, and much of that on Burundi. Yesterday, Burundi recklessly moved forward with elections, despite the African Union (AU), the Secretary-General and others urging delay. The risk of mass violence in Burundi remains acute. The elections yesterday were conducted in an environment that was not free, fair or transparent. Those were simply not credible elections.

In the face of real risks of instability and grave violence, instead of allowing space for the opposition to speak, demonstrate and organize, the Government of Burundi has done the reverse, ratcheting up restrictions, locking up opponents, shutting down radio stations, arming youth militias and intimidating those who disagree. They do this as President Nkurunziza continues to seek a third term in office, directly violating commitments undertaken in the Arusha Accords.

The Government of Burundi must restore independent media outlets, release political detainees, condemn violence, ensure credible presidential elections and allow space for political opposition and civil society to function without fear of retribution. We strongly support efforts by the United Nations, the AU, the East African Community and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to broker a peaceful resolution to this crisis, and we urge the Government to engage in a genuine dialogue with all parties.

The situation in Darfur, of which the Council has been seized for over 10 years, demands our attention and our action. As we struggle to overcome political divisions, the situation in Darfur continues to seriously deteriorate, as the Council recognized in its resolution adopted yesterday, extending the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for another year. Millions of displaced people still cannot return to their homes. The Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and AU High-level Implementation Panel political processes have stalled. The Government of the Sudan has not indicated that it intends to reinvigorate those processes or stop its unrelenting aerial bombardments and attacks in Darfur, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. Meanwhile, the Government continues to systematically restrict UNAMID's freedom of movement and access to the extent that a peacekeeper needlessly died last month after the Government shamefully refused to grant a flight clearance for medical evacuation. The Council's attention is needed now more than ever, and so too is UNAMID.

Turning to our discussions on South Sudan, I want to recall UNICEF Director Anthony Lake's 17 June statement on the violations being committed against children in South Sudan, with survivors reporting that boys have been castrated and left to bleed to death

and girls as young as eight years old gang raped and murdered. Children have been tied together, their throats slit. Just today, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan has released a report that people in Upper Nile state have been burned alive. I want to read an excerpt from the report that came out today from our mission in South Sudan that states that a survivor from Koch county narrated to the human rights division how she was dragged out of her tukul and gang raped alongside her neighbour by Government soldiers in front of her 3-year-old child. The soldiers then taunted them that they would appreciate what men from Mayom county were made of. In another instance, a witness from Rubkona county narrated that she saw Government forces gang-raping a lactating mother after tossing her baby aside, while in another case, two witnesses from Nhialdiu narrated how a 17-year-old girl was gang-raped by armed militia who shot her dead. In at least nine separate incidents, women and girls were burnt in tukuls after being gang-raped, particularly in the Boaw village of Koch county.

These reports are a chilling window into the violence against and acute suffering of South Sudan's most vulnerable citizens every day that the parties fail to demonstrate the courage to resolve this conflict, and these most recent reports, in our judgement, merit urgent consideration by the Council. We will work with the incoming presidency to convene the Council in the coming days on them. This crisis is man-made, and those responsible for it must put the well-being of the South Sudanese people ahead of their own narrow political interest. To date, they have refused to do so, and that must change.

In Yemen, we strongly support the efforts of Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed to begin a preliminary dialogue with the Yemeni Government and the Houthi/Saleh-affiliated delegation in Geneva. Geneva could serve as the beginning of a long and — we hope — useful dialogue process. We must not let momentum falter. To this end, all Council members must use their influence with the parties to press them to engage constructively with the United Nations as it builds on the six principles put forward in Geneva. These constitute a promising basis for the United Nations future engagement. A peaceful political transition consistent with the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative, the National Dialogue Conference outcomes and relevant Security Council resolutions is the only way out of the current crisis. All parties must show greater willingness to compromise than they have done to date.

We remain deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation and fully support the United Nations call for a new humanitarian pause. For a new pause to be possible, all sides must be prepared to concretely implement the pause and be bound by its terms. Resuming commercial imports is a humanitarian concern of the utmost importance.

Yesterday, we met to discuss the grave crisis in Syria. We said it before, and it bears repeating, that no solution to the Syrian conflict can be imposed by force. An inclusive political settlement towards a peaceful transition is the only way to end the conflict, which has killed more than 220,000 people, injured more than 1 million, driven almost 4 million out of the country as refugees, internally displaced 7.6 million people and left 12.2 million others in need of humanitarian aid, including 5.6 million children. We should not allow this to continue.

This month, we also continued the important tradition of hearing from Force Commanders on the front lines of United Nations peacekeeping operations. I would like to emphasize again our appreciation for their service and our gratitude to all troop contributors who are bravely serving in peacekeeping missions around the world. The meeting two weeks ago (see S/PV.7462) allowed us to discuss several essential aspects of modern peacekeeping, the imperative of appropriate training, the importance of expanding the pool of troop-contributing countries and the kinds of contributions they make, and the critical question of how the system handles exceptions to the rules of engagement. For the peacekeepers putting their lives on the line for the benefit of humanity, we have a responsibility to get the system right.

On a related note, President Obama will host a peacekeeping summit during the General Assembly's high-level week, as many members know. Our goal for the summit will be to step up cooperation among the United Nations, troop-contributing countries and financial supporters of peacekeeping to ensure that the United Nations can draw on the right resources to help our peacekeeping operations succeed — that is, to make them more responsive, better at protecting civilians and more able to fulfil the mandates that we as Member States call on them and need them to fulfil.

Speaking of fulfilling mandates, I would like to thank the Malaysian delegation for its successful and steady leadership of the Security Council in June. Our colleagues from New Zealand can rely on our support for what promises to be a busy July.

Mr. Omaish (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to begin by expressing our appreciation, Mr. President, for the way in which you have conducted the work of the Council during the month of June, during which there were several events of note and the adoption of several important resolutions and decisions. My congratulations also go to the team assisting you, who have contributed to the success of the Council's work this month.

I take this opportunity to welcome the Malaysian initiative of holding an open debate on the protection of children in conflict situations (see S/PV.7466), given the scarcely credible increase in the number of crimes and violations against children in armed conflicts, in particular in the Middle East and Africa. In that regard, I note the rise in the number of civilian victims, particularly children, resulting from arbitrary bombardments in Syria, and the Syrian regime's use of barrel bombs, especially in populated areas and against hospitals, schools and basic infrastructure. We also reaffirm the need for the parties to the Syrian conflict to cease their violations of international law and to comply with the resolutions of the Security Council. The Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Syria, Mr. Staffan de Mistura, needs international support to reach a solution on Syria that complies with the First Geneva Convention.

The information provided regarding peacekeeping operations has clarified what such operations have been doing in recent years to address the threat posed by non-State groups and their effects. It has also been established that there is a correlation between armed conflict, organized crime and terrorism. Jordan reaffirms that it will continue to contribute effectively to peacekeeping operations in support of the efforts of the United Nations and the international community as a whole to achieve objectives of such operations.

I would also like to express our appreciation for the briefing on post-conflict peacebuilding (see S/PV.7472), which gave us an overview of progress in that area. It was established that the United Nations working procedures related to peacebuilding must be improved and modernized, and that peacekeeping operations need adequate financial and human resources. In that regard, we welcome the work of the Peacebuilding Commission. Lastly, I congratulate the delegation of New Zealand on its forthcoming presidency and wish it every success next month.

Mr. Van Bohemen (New Zealand): Let me too begin by congratulating the representative of Malaysia on his presidency and his hard-working team on their effectiveness this month. My team was so keen that I should offer my personal reflections that they declined to give me formal remarks for this debate, so I am going to see how I go. I want to offer some reflections on the substance of what we have achieved this month and also on the way in which we achieved it, or failed to achieve it.

We have had some very good debates and a very good outcome in relation to children and armed conflict (see S/PV.7466), and I want to commend Malaysia for making a very substantial contribution to international lawmaking in that area. I thought that the discussion on peacebuilding was also very interesting and, once again, exposed some of the areas into which we must be prepared to go if we are to make best use of the peacebuilding machinery beyond the Council.

We also had good results in relation to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (see S/PV.7468) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) (see S/PV.7478), even though there were some rather deep-seated differences among delegations regarding whether those mandates needed to be adjusted. I welcome the fact that we managed to overcome those differences and adopt the mandates as a united Council. I hope, as I said yesterday, that the new mandate of UNAMID will, in particular, provide an opportunity for a better relationship between the Government of the Sudan and the Council.

If we look beyond the formal outcomes that we achieved this month, however, to consider the problems of the world, we must acknowledge that we have not done all that well. In Syria, Yemen and Libya, we have real problems. There are peace talks fitfully under way in Libya and perhaps under way in Yemen, and nothing at all in Syria. We have real problems in Burundi, where the difficulty of genuinely engaging in prevention is being demonstrated. If the other party does not want to talk, it is very difficult to be an engaged participant. That is a real difficulty, and we have just heard some graphically horrible statistics about what is happening in South Sudan. Those situations reflect very badly on

all of us, not only the members of the Council but the international community as a whole.

There are some problems for which, I think, the Council can properly take responsibility, but we must also admit that there are limits to what it can do. Its members have few arrows in their quiver, particularly if other countries are not prepared to put their troops on the line or authorize more aggressive use of force. Even if they were prepared to do so, we know how difficult such outcomes are to achieve. I do not, therefore, mean to say that the problems are all the Council's; they are not. Particularly in the case of Syria, however, we have a real problem, because the Council is divided, and similar divisions are in evidence in relation to Yemen. Because of such divisions, we cannot really talk to each other and instead seek to score points, which is not helpful.

Some comments have already been made on the way in which we go about our business, and I want to fully endorse what the Ambassador of the United Kingdom said about the need to engage more informally with each other. After all, our consultations are intended to be informal, and yet we have managed to build up a cadre of practice that is so self-denying that it is hard to believe at times what one can and cannot talk about, and the way in which one can talk about it.

I also agree with the delegation of Spain that we need to think about penholding and the ways in which resolutions are negotiated. One option might be the co-penholder proposal, but I would at least ask the permanent members to imagine the impression given to the non-permanent members when a draft resolution is submitted by one of the permanent members to the other permanent members first, and only then to the non-permanent members, when it is to be put to a vote in a day or two. That is not exactly the most useful form of engagement.

I also think that we as Ambassadors have a responsibility to engage more in the products that are negotiated and adopted by this Council. While we of course recognize the great work done by experts and political coordinators, we are ultimately responsible for such products. Yet how often do we really talk about them? How often to we actually have a conversation as ambassadors about what we are doing? I believe that we need to do that, to reach out and suggest that we bring a given matter to the room and talk about it as a group.

Those are sneak previews of what I would like to explore next month when I am President. I do not know how I will get on, but I do hope that you will help me.

Mrs. Alingue (Chad) (*spoke in French*): First of all, allow me congratulate you, Mr. President, on your leadership of the Council during your presidency, and the whole of the team that has supported you. I would also thank you for organizing this monthly meeting to assess the Security Council's work in accordance with note S/2010/507 of the President of Council. We believe that such meetings remain the only means of ensuring transparency in relation to non-members and allowing them to follow our work. The assessment meetings at the end of each presidency make it possible to systematically review the Council's work and give us an overview of the priorities reflected in the media.

We remain concerned by the lack of consensus in the Council regarding extremely serious situations that threaten international peace and security, namely, those in Syria, Iraq, Ukraine, Yemen and Libya, as well as other threats, such as terrorism, violent extremism and the spread and circulation of light weapons, illicit trafficking and migration issues. We believe that Council members can do better by listening to each other and by taking into account each other's legitimate concerns in a spirit of consensus.

The adoption of resolution 2220 (2015) on the strengthening of cooperation to counter the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, adopted with nine votes in favour and six abstentions, reveals the power play within the Council and the position of some member States with regard to the others.

Concerning the political crisis in Burundi, we underscore the necessity for the international community to take action to help Burundi overcome the political crisis it is experiencing. We also note the primary role of the West African community in settling the crisis and call for close cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, so as to support regional efforts for an exit from the crisis in the interest of the Burundian people.

During the month of June, the Security Council examined ways to make peacekeeping operations more effective, to protect civilians and to guarantee the security of mission staff. The need to guarantee the security of the Blue Helmets themselves was underscored with concern by force commanders and by delegations, who talked about, for example, the

planting of mines and improvised explosive devices by armed groups in Mali. We think that appropriate means should be made available to United Nations forces to allow them to protect themselves.

With regard to the restrictions imposed by some countries on the ways in which their troops can be used, we think there is a need to have a single chain of command within military and police contingents and to uphold the hierarchy of which they are a part, without giving priority to the orders of national authorities.

With regard to sexual abuse during United Nations missions, which has been unanimously and strongly denounced by all delegations, we believe that the zero-tolerance policy must be made a reality. In that connection, we endorse the proposal to include more women staff in peacekeeping operations, including in high-ranking posts.

With regard to violence against children in armed conflict, our country agrees with the Secretary-General's recommendation, namely, that the Council should ensure that grave violations perpetrated against children be considered crimes subject to Security Council sanctions. We encourage States and financial partners to shore up actions to reintegrate former child soldiers and prevent their recruitment into armed forces. Chad welcomes the fact that it was de-listed from the list of States with children in their armies. Of course, we stand ready to share our modest experience in that area with interested parties.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate once again my congratulations to the President and the whole Malaysian team for the significant work undertaken, the relevance of the topics addressed and the perseverance they demonstrated throughout their presidency. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate New Zealand ahead of time on its assumption of the presidency in July and wish it every success. The delegation of New Zealand can count on Chad's support.

Mr. Laro (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation thanks you, Mr. President, for convening this wrap-up session. June has indeed been a busy month for the Council with various country situations and thematic issues on its programme of work. We would like to focus our comments today on the briefing on peacekeeping operations (S/PV.7464), the briefing on peacebuilding (S/PV.7472) and the Security Council press statements issued during the month.

The briefing on peacekeeping operations once again presented the Council with an opportunity to hear directly from and interact with force commanders. The three themes of the briefing, which were operating in an asymmetric environment, the protection of civilians and how caveats affect performance, highlight some of the key contemporary challenges faced by peacekeeping operations. We are pleased to note that, despite those challenges, peacekeeping missions continue to play a vital role in the maintenance of international peace and security. We pay tribute to the men and women serving in those missions and we offer our deepest condolences to the loved ones of the peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

The briefing on peacebuilding underscored the value of maintaining a close engagement between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. Nigeria is of the view that, for peacebuilding to be effective, sustained attention must be paid to institution-building; security-sector reform; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; and the strengthening of the rule of law. Also important are the promotion of national dialogue and reconciliation. We must note the interdependence of those thematic issues. They underline the imperative for sustained commitment in addressing the multifaceted challenges of assisting countries transitioning from conflict to peace.

The Nigerian delegation pays tribute to Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota of Brazil for his achievements as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). We also offer our strong support to the current PBC Chair, Ambassador Olof Skoog of Sweden, and welcome his commitment to making the biggest possible difference in the countries that the Commission is working with. We are confident that, under his able leadership, the PBC will continue to play a vital role in promoting sustainable peace and development in those countries.

The timely issuance of press statements is an important aspect of the Council's work. They allow the Council to respond publicly to significant developments on matters on its agenda. In June, the Council adopted a significant number of press statements, mainly on terrorist attacks, but also on other matters of importance to peace and security, especially at the regional level. Nigeria commends Council members for their flexibility, which has allowed us to reach early consensus on those statements. It is important that the voice of the Council be heard in a timely manner when

the situation so demands. That sends an important message of unity and common purpose among Council members.

Finally, Nigeria congratulates you, Mr. President, and your delegation for the able manner in which you have presided over the affairs of the Council in the month of June. We also seize this opportunity to assure the delegation of New Zealand of our full support as they prepare to assume the presidency of the Council in July.

Mr. Méndez Graterol (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Venezuela congratulates you, Mr. President, and your team on your initiative, efficiency and leadership in guiding the work of the Security Council during the month of June. Great contributions have been made during this past month to the management of the Council.

Our country welcomes this wrap-up session because we believe that these sessions make it possible to identify the progress and challenges before us in the complex task of strengthening international peace and security. In the context of the spirit and purpose of the Charter of the United Nations, we encourage the Security Council to deepen its working relationship with the other Members of the Organization in a transparent and inclusive way with a view to strengthening its credibility in the eyes of the entire membership of that forum.

The issue of children in armed conflict has attracted the Council's attention, and your presidency resolutely promoted consideration of that topic. Venezuela believes the adoption of resolution 2225 (2015) was extremely important. It requested the Secretary-General to include, in the annexes to his reports on the issue, parties that resort to kidnapping children in situations of armed conflict and it calls on them to cease unlawful or arbitrary detention, as well as torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, imposed on children during their detention.

In the context of that important debate on 18 June (see S/PV.7466), in particular with regard to the case of Palestine, a significant number of countries, including Venezuela, expressed their concern and rejected the inconsistency and selectivity shown in the treatment of the occupying Power, which had committed serious violations against Palestinian children, in the annexes to the Secretary-General's report (S/2015/409).

In the work that was done this past month, we would like to highlight the importance of the informational meeting (see S/PV.7464), held on 17 June, with the force commanders of the peacekeeping operations in Darfur, Mali and in separation zone in the Golan Heights. Those exchanges led to agreement on the need to ensure that peacekeeping troops are provided with adequate training, equipment and resources, as well as to ensure that they are determined and willing to fulfil their mandates, regardless of the circumstances in which they operate. Such issues will continue to fuel our discussions in the next few months.

We would also like to mention the informative meeting held with the current Chair and the former Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassadors Olof Skoog and Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, on the Commission's eighth session (see S/PV.7472). Some of the most relevant subjects discussed were the importance of including regional and subregional organizations and neighbouring countries in the peacebuilding process; the fundamental role that the Commission plays in tying together the goals of stability, political legitimacy, the rule of law and socioeconomic development; and the need to obtain additional resources for the tasks involved in peacebuilding. In that regard, we would like to highlight the challenge of continuing to provide long-term sustained support to post-conflict countries. The cost of any effort aimed at strengthening such countries' institutional, technical, economic and social capabilities pales in comparison to the human and economic costs that relapses into conflict can bring. Those issues have paved the way for the necessary informed discussion of the reports of bodies studying peace operations, peacebuilding and the achievements of resolution 1325 (2005). Those meetings have served as a prelude to what will surely be an intense debate on the future of some of the Council's fundamental tools for promoting and maintaining international peace and security.

During the Security Council's intensive work over the past six months, the fight against terrorism has been high on its agenda, and those efforts have led to decisions with a global reach aimed at effectively combating that scourge. Resolution 2199 (2015) and the presidential statement on foreign terrorist fighters (S/PRST/2015/11) reinforce the legal and political multilateral framework needed to prevent, combat and eliminate international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The implementation of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on that topic

requires a strong commitment on the part of States to ending arms transfers and the financing and training of non-State actors, in accordance with international law. We also appreciate the activities aimed at strengthening international cooperation in our shared effort to combat violent extremism, which have been scheduled for the coming months.

Beyond that, and regarding conflict situations that remain unresolved, with negative consequences for the peoples involved, such as in Palestine and Western Sahara, among others, we call on the Security Council, based on its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, to take a more active role in promoting peaceful negotiated solutions, with the full cooperation of the parties concerned, in order to achieve firm and lasting peace.

Venezuela attaches particular importance to improving the Security Council's methods of work, which is vital if we are to promote transparency and inclusiveness. In that regard, we believe that the process of selecting and nominating the next Secretary-General, which will start in the next few months, should be guided by those principles, so as to encourage Member States to propose candidates. The official presentation of candidacies for the post of Secretary-General should be done far in enough in advance to ensure better interaction between the General Assembly and the Security Council. We appreciate the initiatives and statements that have been made on the matter by various groups of States, including the Non-Aligned Movement, whose position we fully share.

Strengthening the Security Council's relationship with troop-contributing countries is a crucial point on its agenda. We therefore believe it essential that we fully apply Article 44 of the Charter in order to ensure that countries that provide contingents can participate in every aspect and at every stage of United Nations peacekeeping operations, with the goal of achieving more effective coordination between the actors involved in the missions' institutional dynamics.

We would like to encourage the Council to intensify its cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, with a view to helping to find solutions to regional conflicts that have an impact on international peace and security. Despite the importance of that objective, we regret that the African Union's Special Envoy on the question of Western Sahara, former President Joaquim Chissano, was not permitted to take part in the discussions on the subject held in April (see S/PV.7435). The fact that the African Union is a strategic ally of the United Nations, and particularly the Security Council, in the promotion of peace and stability in Africa was not taken into consideration. That situation affects this body's working methods, including its transparency, and in the future such practices should therefore be avoided.

Turning to another issue, Venezuela believes that the Security Council should confine its focus to dealing with matters that affect international peace and security, in strict accordance with the Charter, and avoid putting issues that are beyond its purview on its agenda. That is necessary in order to ensure that the Council's attention is not distracted from the issues that are central to its work.

Finally, we would like to express our support for and desire to cooperate with the delegation of New Zealand when it takes over the presidency of the Council for the month of July, for which we wish it every success.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council's agenda over the past month has been extremely busy, Mr. President, and we would like to thank your delegation for presiding so capably over its functions.

I would like to focus on various important subjects. The central event of the Malaysian presidency was its convening of a meeting on the topic of children and armed conflict (see S/PV.7466). We share the concern of others about the terrible plight of millions of children living amid armed conflict in various parts of the world. The new trend of violence against children perpetrated by terrorist organizations and groups professing ideologies of violent extremism is particularly worrying.

We also welcomed the meeting on 17 June on peacekeeping issues (see S/PV.7464) in which the force commanders of a number of field missions participated. Such dialogue is especially important in view of the new challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping operations today. One of the most dangerous current trends is the growing number of non-traditional security risks to peacekeepers created by non-State actors. It is also essential that we establish constructive cooperation between United Nations missions and host Governments, which, by definition, are directly responsible for the protection of their populations and the overall situation in their countries.

The relevance of the questions that came up during that meeting was confirmed in the Security Council's discussion of a number of the topics relating to countries in Africa that have traditionally been a focus of the Council's work. The unanimous adoption of resolution 2228 (2015) reaffirmed the role of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur as a solid basis for a settlement in the region. The Council again clearly expressed its support for the head of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) to act as a mediator between the Government of the Sudan and the Darfur rebels on the basis of the Doha Document. The parties that have influence on the Darfur rebels must urge them to become involved in the Doha peace process as soon as possible. The Council also affirmed the key role of the Joint Working Group consisting of representatives of the Sudan, the United Nations and the African Union in developing an exit strategy for UNAMID's withdrawal from Darfur. The Council and the United Nations Secretariat should study the Group's recommendations very carefully.

On 20 June in Bamako, the complex process of producing a comprehensive settlement for Mali was concluded with the completion of the signing of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. It has opened the way for an end to the armed conflict and to achieving a broad national consensus.

It is our hope that all of the political forces in Mali will shoulder their responsibilities in implementing the provisions of the agreement and continue the peace process dialogue. The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali should play an important role in that regard, as enshrined in resolution 2227 (2015) adopted yesterday. The international community should help to strengthen progress; in that connection, we believe that the threat of sanctions would be counter-productive.

The situation in Burundi has remained a focus of the Council's attention, in which context presidential statement S/PRST/2015/13 was adopted. Of utmost importance is an appeal to conduct inclusive internal Burundian dialogue on the organization of elections, based on the country's Constitution. It is our view that further postponement of the electoral timetable could give rise to a constitutional vacuum and increased chaos in Burundi.

We welcome the steps taken by the Government to bring stability to the country by way of implementing the decisions of the African Union and the East African Community, including by providing security guarantees to all political leaders in the electoral period and measures for the disarming of the population. Those who have influence on the opponents to the Government, who have continued to exacerbate the situation in the hope of sinking the elections, must act to stop them from continuing and from spurring the anti-Government forces towards new illegal actions.

In June the Council continued to actively address the issue of the Middle East and North Africa. The situation in the region was marked by high volatility and stabilizing it will be impossible without achieving a political and diplomatic solution to the regional crises. Given the new crises and those that have been going on for several decades, it is unfortunate that there appears to be no reason for optimism regarding a settlement to the crisis in the Middle East.

As a result of outside intervention in the conflict in Syria and actions by the armed opposition, a new threat has arisen, namely, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). It is taking hold in neighbouring Iraq and planting roots in Lebanon and other countries of the region, and beyond. United Nations peacekeepers now find themselves under threat as a result. We strongly condemn the incidents that have resulted in the wounding of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force peacekeepers. Today, ISIL is strengthening its foothold in Afghanistan. It is also targeting Central Asia. In Europe, terrorism has also appeared, as can been seen from events directly tied to that armed group.

We are convinced that all countries in the region must now set aside the disagreements that have always existed and probably will remain on various matters. Instead, they must focus all efforts on combating the threat that is shared by all, namely, terrorism. The Syrian Government has an indisputable right to decisively combat terrorism in the country, while upholding relevant international obligations. However, given the scale of the activities of ISIL, Jabhat al-Nusra and their enablers, Syrian efforts alone will not suffice.

It is also important not to lose sight of the terrorist factor in Yemen. There is every reason to believe that Al-Qaida is spreading its influence there, too. We must prevent terrorists from filling the political vacuum and using the possible agreement of the Yemeni sides to their own ends. We must continue to work with the Yemeni parties to urgently start a thoughtful dialogue on ways to halt the conflict and establish effective and representative bodies of power. We understand

the importance of an inclusive Yemeni dialogue and of Yemenis, themselves, defining their own future without outside intervention. Once again, we would like to underscore the need for a speedy declaration in Yemen of humanitarian truces, given the disastrous situation there.

With regard to the situation in Ukraine we wish to state that the meeting of the Contact Group in June, as well as the of sub-working groups on various matters, and the Normandy Four meeting on 23 June have demonstrated that there is no alternative to the Minsk process, and to a full implementation of the package of measures. Likewise, there is no alternative to direct dialogue between Kyiv and Donetsk and Luhansk. I would like to recall that the Minsk II agreement was signed by representatives of both Kyiv and Donbas. Progress in the implementation of the Minsk agreements is still insufficient. Only six months remain till the end of 2015.

It is clear now, not only to us but also to the other members of the Normandy Four, that implementation of the provisions of the package of measures is being hampered, first and foremost, by Kyiv. We stated that, paragraph by paragraph, in the Council meeting of 5 June (see S/PV.7457). I would like to give the Council a blatant example. According to media outlets and statements by the Kyiv Government, active work is under way to amend the Constitution, in violation of the package of measures; Donetsk and Luhansk have been excluded from the process. Furthermore, at the ministerial meeting in Paris, there was a clear understanding of the danger of the activities of certain forces attempting to push the situation towards a military solution.

We call upon those members of the Council that are using any opportunity, including today's meeting, to repeat propaganda statements, to think about their responsibility for the situation in Ukraine. It would be much more productive, instead of blowing hot air, to bring the necessary pressure to bear on Kyiv for swift implementation of the Minsk II agreements.

Regarding the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, we do not clearly understand the link between those matters and the June and July agendas of the Council, as it would seem that the election of the new Secretary-General is set for next year. As a matter of principle, we wish to underscore that we would not support any attempt to rewrite Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations. The existing procedure has been working fine, thus far.

We would like to recall that last time, in 2006, when the election of the Secretary-General was based on a run-off, Mr. Ban Ki-moon was elected three months before the end of Mr. Annan's term. Regarding the proposal to optimize procedures with a view to greater participation in the process on the part of all Member States, all of those ideas require careful study. We cannot forget that our primary task is to elect the most qualified and fitting candidate as Secretary-General.

In conclusion, we would like to wish the New Zealand delegation every success as it assumes the presidency of the Council in July.

Mr. Olguín Cigarroa (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would like to thank the Malaysian presidency for its successful leadership of the Council and for this wrap-up session, which is of imperative importance to the elected members of the Council in promoting transparent working methods for the benefit of all States Members of the United Nations.

Looking back at the past month, we would stress the importance of the open debate on children and armed conflict (S/PV.7466) and the support of members for including kidnapping as an element to trigger the inclusion of perpetrators in the annexes of the reports of the Secretary-General. We appreciate the fact that numerous participants, including Chile, supported the Lucens Guidelines and the Oslo Declaration on protecting schools and universities from military use during armed conflict, in accordance with Council resolution 2143 (2014).

We would also highlight yesterday's meeting on the situation in Darfur (S/PV.7478) and stress that all referrals to the International Criminal Court (ICC), whether past or future, must be accompanied by consistent action on the part of the Council. Putting an end to impunity requires improved cooperation in communications with the ICC and its Prosecutor.

We have mourned numerous deaths this past month, deaths resulting from terrorist attacks. We reiterate that the fight against terrorism must also include a holistic approach so as to address the deep-seated causes and destabilizing factors that serve as a breeding ground for extremism.

We appreciate the various meeting formats, including informal interactive dialogues and meetings

held under the Arria Formula. The interactive informal dialogue with the Peacebuilding Commission (S/PV.7472) enabled us to discuss the complementarity between that body and the Council and to interact directly with the countries concerned and Chairs of the country-specific configurations. We appreciate the promotion of dialogue between the countries concerned and the subsidiary bodies. In that regard, the Chilean Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015) concerning South Sudan held a formal meeting on 19 June this year with South Sudan and neighbouring States in order to promote dialogue aimed at contributing to a greater and better understanding of the challenges facing States, and also at achieving a better implementation of the sanctions established by the Council. Another example is the meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, where, together with some countries from that continent, we were able to play a preventive role, especially with regard to Burundi.

Finally, we are convinced that the wrap-up sessions must be continued and held monthly, particularly given the upcoming priority issues falling under the mandate of the United Nations system, including the mandate of the Council, such as the anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) and the process for electing the Secretary-General. In that regard, we hope that the Council will promote openness and transparency over the next few months, in harmony with the progress of that item through the General Assembly.

In conclusion, I extend my best wishes to New Zealand for their upcoming presidency.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): First, I would like to warmly thank Ambassador Dato Ramlan Bin Ibrahim and the entire Malaysian team for all the work accomplished in June. You, Sir, have managed the agenda of a very busy and productive month in New York outstandingly. In particular, I will remember the excellent debate organized on children in armed conflict, marked by the adoption of the important resolution 2225 (2015). We also had significant discussions on peacebuilding, in various formats, both formal and informal.

I would like first to touch upon two African questions. The first, that of Mali, is encouraging; the other, that of Burundi, continues to worry us.

June marked a historic step taken forward for Mali with the signing of the Bamako Peace Agreement by all concerned parties. The Council took note of that in the adoption of resolution 2227 (2015). That important resolution gives the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) a new mandate to support the implementation of the Peace Agreement in all its aspects, in particular security: and to support the cantonment, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants, and the redeployment of Malian armed forces in the north, in the framework of the mechanisms contained in the agreement.

The full and genuine implementation of the Agreement by its signatories will be key to guaranteeing peace and solidifying it. The Council made clear that it will closely follow the implementation of the Agreement and that those who would oppose its implementation will have to bear the consequences. Thus, by giving the Mission the task of supporting the Peace Agreement, the Security Council recalled the first duty of the Blue Helmets in Mali: helping Mali move towards a lasting peace, in support of the Ouagadougou Agreement during the establishment of MINUSMA and in support of the Bamako Agreement now.

While Mali has embarked on a positive momentum, that has not been the case in Burundi, which has entered a tense period since President Nkurunziza's declaration of his candidacy for a third term. In its press release of 13 June, the African Union established a framework for a new dialogue to settle the political crisis in a long-lasting fashion. The press release called, in particular, for the electoral timetable to be agreed upon by the parties. It also set a number of conditions to be met before the holding of elections — such as the reopening of media outlets, the release of those arrested during protests and the disarmament of groups of young people affiliated in particular with political parties.

In several press releases, the international mediation team and the Secretary-General have indicated that they felt that conditions have not been met at this stage for the holding of free, credible, transparent and inclusive elections. They called for a further postponement of elections. That request we know was not accepted by the Government of Burundi, which cited constitutional constraints.

Unilaterally, the Government held communal and legislative elections yesterday, in a tense atmosphere.

The opposition boycotted them. The strict control of dissenting neighbourhoods by the police since the beginning of June has curtailed demonstrations against a third term. The Government seems determined to hold presidential elections on 15 July and Pierre Nkurunziza remains determined to maintain his candidacy. The situation thus remains volatile and unpredictable. With the support of the Council, international mediation is continuing its efforts to find a common ground for presidential elections. We are launching a heartfelt appeal to all parties, in particular the Burundian authorities, to demonstrate a spirit of dialogue and compromise in the country's higher interests.

Those two situations remind us how much the United Nations needs to improve its effectiveness in both prevention and crisis management. Specifically, the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, chaired by José Ramos-Horta, delivered its report to the Secretary-General on 17 June. The report contains around a hundred recommendations of all kinds: doctrinal ones dealing with political processes, the protection of civilians, the use of force, preventive diplomacy, for example; and recommendations on the functioning of peacekeeping operations, i.e. regarding chains of command, the engagement of troop-contributing countries, equipment, training, as well as on the internal organization of the Secretariat, in particular as pertains to strengthening analysis and planning or mainstreaming logistical support.

The report should now give rise to work on the part of the Secretary-General, who will propose an implementation report. That should be coordinated with Member States. The result will be presented at the next General Assembly, and the recommendations, addressed to the Security Council, the Secretariat, troop-contributing countries and all players in the peacekeeping arena, will, once approved, be gradually implemented thereafter. We have high expectations because through peacekeeping missions and their ability to adapt to changing conditions, the image of the United Nations, especially the relevance of the work of our Organization, are at stake.

I will conclude my statement by briefly touching on the Middle East. Consultations this month have once again revealed the need for specific initiatives for a resumption of the peace process. We cannot just limit ourselves to calling upon the parties to resume negotiations. In the light of the tensions and given the prospects of a two-State solution moving further away, France has proposed an international two-track approach.

The priority here is to create an international support group. Minister Fabius called it the "Quartet plus", which would include, in addition to the current members, the permanent members of the Council and some countries in the region and the European Union. Next, we will have to work for the adoption of a resolution with parameters acceptable to all. A resolution will only be meaningful if it is based on consensus and would bring players to the negotiating table again. We will therefore work in New York and in the capitals to move forward on such an approach.

In Syria, the past weeks have seen the deadliest toll since the conflict began. The number of indiscriminate attacks against civilians has reached an all-time high. The regime has stepped up attacks with barrel bombs. At the same time, the Daesh and Jabhat Al-Nusra terrorist groups have continued their onward march and targeted civilians. Those attacks are intolerable and run counter to international humanitarian law and Security Council resolutions. Working with Spain, France has sought to highlight the suffering of civilians and undertake an approach to raise international awareness regarding the gravity of those atrocities. Over the month of July, we will be working with all delegations in the Council to create a course of action that will be effective in combating those indiscriminate attacks.

We have three priorities in Syria: seeking a political solution, protecting civilians and combating terrorism. We are convinced that those priorities are linked and are complementary. As Special Envoy de Mistura has recalled, ultimately, only a political solution will guarantee Syrians stability and security. And there can be no effective response to terrorism if we do not find a solution that meets the aspirations of the Syrian people, while sidestepping chaos. That is a very difficult path, but one that France finds it necessary to promote tirelessly.

We should not forget that this past month was darkened by heinous terrorist attacks hitting several countries, including France and several other members of the Security Council. Our determination to combat the scourges of terrorism and radicalism is total. More than ever, the unity of the Council is necessary to stop the fanatics.

Finally, I would like to thank the Malaysian presidency and wish every success to New Zealand, which can count on our full support.

Mr. Shen Bo (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China wishes to express its appreciation for Malaysia's leadership as Council President for the month of June. I would like to thank you and your team, Mr. President, for your effective work. I believe that under the leadership of the incoming President, New Zealand, our work will also have positive results.

With regard to the discussions this month, China has stated its views, but I will now focus on three issues.

First, the situation in the Middle East at present remains volatile. Peace talks remain the only viable way to achieve reconciliation between Palestine and Israel. We urge Israel and Palestine to adhere to their strategic decision in opting for peace talks. We hope that the new Government in Israel will take credible steps to create favourable conditions for the start of peace talks, which should include stopping the settlement activities, releasing the Palestinian detainees and the full lifting of the blockade on Gaza. The Council should, on that point, assume the necessary responsibilities and take concrete action to promote peace talks. China supports all initiatives and efforts that could help the two sides bridge their differences and resume peace talks as soon as possible. We hope that the international community will enhance coordination and rally all efforts for a restart of peace talks between the two sides and promote an improvement in the situation there. China is willing to enhance its cooperation with the international community and play a greater role in facilitating a solution.

Secondly, with regard to the question of the Sudan and Darfur, we appreciate the efforts of the Sudanese Government to stabilize the situation in Darfur and promote the political process and the economic and social development of the region. The international community should urge all parties in Darfur, especially the rebel forces, to adhere to the agreed political solution and to take part in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, so as to pave the way for a comprehensive and early solution of the question of Darfur and the development and rebuilding of Darfur. China values the work of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in stabilizing the situation and promoting peace talks and the protection of civilians. We support an extension of the UNAMID mandate.

China has consistently stated that United Nations peacekeeping operations should respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries concerned, and take their opinions fully into consideration. We should adjust the mandate and scale of peacekeeping operations in the light of the developments and needs on the ground. The Council should, in that regard, pay attention to the request of the Sudanese Government that the United Nations formulate an exit strategy for UNAMID. We welcome and support the establishment of a tripartite working group, composed of the Secretariat, the Sudanese Government and the African Union, and hope that all parties will step up consultations and devise a reasonable proposal for a phased withdrawal of UNAMID that is acceptable to all.

Thirdly, with regard to United Nations peacebuilding, China believes that it should be owned, led and driven by the countries concerned. It should focus on supporting the countries' own institutions, on capacity-building and on addressing the root causes of the conflicts. On the one hand, the United Nations should serve as a platform aimed at further promoting coordination and cooperation in peacebuilding among the parties in the countries concerned and the stakeholders in the international community. We should avoid monopolizing. We must tailor our work plan to the actual needs of the countries concerned, optimize the use of resources and improve the effectiveness of our work. While ensuring the sustained stability and development of those countries, we should also attend to short-term returns that would allow people to enjoy peacebuilding dividends through projects that do not involve huge investments but bring a quick impact. China will continue to play a positive and constructive role in peacebuilding.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

Before adjourning the meeting, I would like, as this is the last scheduled meeting of the Council for the month of June 2015, to express the sincere appreciation of the delegation of Malaysia to the members of the Council, especially my colleagues, the Permanent Representatives, their respective staff and to the secretariat of the Council for all the support they have given us.

I believe this has been a useful wrap-up session. Some of the suggestions on working methods and others will help us not only to address issues in a much more candid and constructive manner during the informal

consultations but also to invest more time in the best way forward. There have been many useful reflections that would improve the work of the Council. I hope that we can agree on a new set of best practices. If we continue to embrace old styles and habits in the way we conduct ourselves, we are run the risk of having to face yet another groundhog day.

Indeed, it has been a busy month and one in which we have rallied to a consensus on several important issues within our purview. We could not have done it alone or without the hard work, support and positive contributions of every delegation and the representatives of the Secretariat as well as the relevant conference service staff.

As we end our presidency, I know that I speak on behalf of the Council in wishing the delegation of New Zealand good luck and a very successful presidency in the month of July. I wish to ensure New Zealand the full support of the Malaysian delegation.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7480

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7480th meeting
Tuesday, 7 July 2015, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Van Bohemen	(New Zealand)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Gombo
	Chile	Mr. Olguín Cigarroa
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Jordan	Mr. Omaish
	Lithuania	Mr. Baublys
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. González de Linares Palou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Davison
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2015/472)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President: As this is the first formal meeting of the Council for the month of July, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Ramlan Bin Ibrahim, Permanent Representative of Malaysia, for his service as President of the Council for the month of June. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Ibrahim and his delegation for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2015/472)

The President: In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/472, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa.

I now give the floor to Mr. Chambas.

Mr. Chambas: I am pleased to be here today to brief the Council on the situation in West Africa and the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA). Further to the fifteenth report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2015/472), which is before the Council, I would like to highlight a few issues and update members on the most recent developments.

The general picture in West Africa today is that of, first, continuous concerns regarding the security situation in the Lake Chad Basin area and its humanitarian impact, in spite of the progress made by the affected countries in the fight against Boko Haram; secondly, continuing risks of instability in several West African nations in the lead-up to their presidential elections later in the year, following the resounding success of the Nigerian electoral process; and, lastly, transnational organized crime and the Ebola virus disease remain a matter of serious concern in spite of continuing national, regional and international efforts to curb these threats. These are areas that will continue to guide our preventive diplomacy and good-offices efforts in the months to come.

Since May, the Boko Haram insurgency has stepped up its attacks and violence in the Lake Chad Basin area mainly against civilian targets, leading to renewed deterioration in the security and humanitarian situations. Although Boko Haram's structure and capacity for conventional warfare has been destroyed, that terrorist group continues to perpetrate violent attacks and rampages not only in Nigeria but also in the Niger and Chad, as seen in recent weeks. This underscores the necessity for continued vigilance and coordinated regional action. In this regard, the unprecedented solidarity exemplified by the joint military operations carried out by Nigeria, Chad, the Niger and Cameroon against Boko Haram terrorists since January, with the support of international partners, is indeed commendable.

Immediately after his inauguration, President Muhammadu Buhari visited the Niger and Chad on 3 and 4 June to highlight the high-level consultations and galvanize support in the fight against Boko Haram terrorism. On 11 June, an extraordinary summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Lake Chad Basin Commission member States plus Benin was held in Abuja, where far-reaching decisions were taken to accelerate the effective operationalization of the multinational Joint Task Force. To ensure continuity in the war effort, greater support from all partners remains crucial. In the longer term, addressing the root causes of the insurgency constitutes a condition for lasting stability. A coordinated post-conflict strategy is required to help restore normal living conditions and livelihood activities and organize the return of refugees and persons displaced by the conflict.

While Boko Haram-related insecurity has impeded field assessment in the northern areas, I am pleased to report that in the context of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, which I chair on behalf of the

United Nations, the two countries have not relented on completing the demarcation of their common land boundary. As the Commission is actively preparing to initiate confidence-building projects in favour of populations in Cameroon and Nigeria adversely affected by the demarcation, I should note that the United Nations support team has already outlined a completion strategy that establishes specific timetables and projections for concluding the work of the Commission and for passing responsibility for residual and follow-up activities to a bilateral commission exclusively comprising the two countries.

In Guinea, the inter-Guinean political dialogue kicked off on 19 June, with the international partners, including the United Nations, sitting as observers. Subsequently, however, the representative of the International Organization of la Francophonie and I assumed an informal facilitation role at the request of Government facilitators and the parties. It is pertinent to note that the contentious issue of the sequencing of the elections has been resolved in favour of the holding of the presidential election before the communal and local elections. Longstanding contentious elements dividing the Government and the opposition are now being addressed, notably strengthening the technical capacity of the Independent National Electoral Commission, a credible electoral register, and the monitoring and evaluation of the preparations for the presidential election, with the support of the United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the International Organization of la Francophonie, and bilateral and multilateral partners.

One remaining major challenge is the financial and expertise gap that needs to be bridged for the electoral process in Guinea to be on course. Time is of the essence, given that we have only about four months until the presidential elections. While a number of partners have made pledges, it is expedient that these promises be redeemed soonest.

Concerning Burkina Faso, the International Follow-up and Support Group for the Transition in Burkina Faso met on 12 June 2015, in the margins of the twenty-fifth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, in Johannesburg. The Group noted the progress made in the preparations for elections, notably with the completed revision of the voters' register. Meanwhile, there are concerns regarding what is emerging as the fragile equilibrium of the transition, and in particular the underlying tensions between Prime Minister Zida and the Presidential Security Regiment (RSP). Our concerns increased following the recent incident on 29 June, when elements of the RSP reportedly attempted to arrest Prime Minister Zida upon his return from a foreign trip. Several gunshots were heard in the Regiment's camp that evening. I should, however, mention the commendable efforts made by President Kafando in appeasing the situation and in keeping the transition on track towards the holding of presidential elections on 10 October. Meanwhile, I plan to visit Ouagadougou upon my return to the region, jointly with the Chairperson of the ECOWAS Commission and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, in our capacity as co-Chairs of the International Follow-up and Support Group.

Before I conclude, let me draw the Council's attention to the continuous challenges posed by the Ebola virus disease in the region. On 24 June, UNOWA facilitated a telephone conference between the Mano River Union secretariat and peace missions in the region, during which emphasis was placed on the difficulties encountered in border areas, as none of the security and confidence-building mechanisms is operational, and restrictions due to Ebola continue to affect local livelihoods. Despite significant achievements in the fight against Ebola, Guinea and Sierra Leone are yet to attain zero-case situations. Most worrisome is the fact that, after declaring a zero-case situation on 9 May, Liberia has detected three new cases; the last was confirmed on 28 June. There have been remarkable examples of neighbourly solidarity in facing the Ebola crisis. With the epidemic still active and in a sensitive political context, especially in Guinea, the resources in place since 2014, including those of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, remain essential to achieving the goal of zero Ebola cases.

The President: I thank Mr. Chambas for his briefing.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.20 p.m.